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JP AUCLAIR



I didn't know JP Auclair; I have never met him, nor spoken to him nor even emailed him personally but when I heard about his death this morning I was filled with both remorse and sympathy. I immediately text a friend who knew him well and asked if it was true, he called me back obviously shaken and was struggling to come to terms with the sudden news.

The news release said

'Jean-Philippe (JP) Auclair was found dead after an avalanche that struck San Lorenzo Mountain in Patagonia on Monday. Carl Andreas Fransson, originally of Sweden, was also found dead with him. The authorities said that Auclair arrived in the Aysen region of Chile's Patagonia on Thursday along with two other tourists from Sweden. They had been hiking the 3,600-metre mountain and disappeared when a wall of rocks and snow cascaded down, dragging them to a stream in Argentine territory.'

JP's call to fame was that he was an amazing skier – he has featured several times in both Adventure Magazine and Ski and Snow Magazine - he has been the cornerstone or many features and graced the cover more than once, if you think back to

some of the dramatic skiing images you have seen in Adventure that guy was probably JP. Whenever a feature arrived, normally from photographer Chris O'Connell, you didn't even need to open the file to know that what was inside was going to be great. JP was an exciting, innovative, technical skier and evidently an extremely nice guy, likeable with an abundance of talent that never bloomed into egotism which so often occurs in these extreme sport people.

Often as an editor you build a relationship (even if only vicariously) with individuals as you document their travels and experiences. And I know we can layer all the clichés on this tragedy like, 'he died knowing the risks', 'he died following his passion', but the reality is we have lost a super star and it's completely tragic.

It is a dark side to adventure sports, but as we push the envelope of more hazardous environments and the danger level of the activity so incrementally we increase the risks.

JP will be sadly missed and it would not be right to end this on trite clichés – simply our condolences to his friends and family.

– Steve Dickinson

EDITOR

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Please feel free to send any submissions to
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SKIER JP AUCLAIR KILLED IN AVALANCHE

According to reports from the Chilean news website, Canadian freeskiier JP Auclair and Swede Andreas Fransson died in an avalanche on 12,159-foot Mount San Lorenzo, a peak that forms the border between Patagonian Chile and Argentina. The incident happened Monday Sept 30th.

Auclair's last Facebook post was on September 26: "Road trip down south with a great crew, back at it with @andreasfransson99 @bjarnesalen and @danielronnback for #apogeeskiing and very much looking forward to the days ahead."

Auclair, 37, was born in Quebec and has regularly featured in the pages of Adventure Magazine. This talented likeable guy was an amazing skier and is one of the founders of Armada skis. Our condolences go out to his family and friends at this time.



NEW MARINE RESERVES ON WEST COAST

Five new marine reserves were officially opened by Conservation Minister Dr Nick Smith on the West Coast of the South Island to protect a range of marine ecosystems for conservation, science and recreation.

"These five new marine reserves on the West Coast effective from today are part of the Government's plan to improve New Zealand's marine conservation. We are a nation with some of the most spectacular and unique coastlines in the world and we need to recognise the importance and value of these marine habitats," Dr Smith says.

The five reserves - Kahurangi, Punakaiki, Waiau Glacier Coast, Tauparikākā and Hautai - are the first such reserves for the West Coast beyond Fiordland, and adjoin three National Parks and one World Heritage Area, Te Wāhipounamu - South West New Zealand.

"The creation of these reserves is a great result for conservation on the West Coast and allows us to preserve and manage interconnected ecosystems from the mountains to the ocean," Dr Smith says.

The marine reserves will protect some of the shore and seabed habitats of special marine life

such as Hector's dolphins and blue penguins (korora), as well as a wide range of fish species and other marine life.

The five reserve sites were carefully chosen to protect a representative range of habitats and special examples of the West Coast's marine areas while minimising impacts on existing users. Popular fishing locations and mataitai reserves for customary and recreational fishing still remain available to be utilised by fishers. Some low-impact activities are still allowed within the reserves' boundaries to ensure that people can fully enjoy the benefits of the reserves, but without damaging marine life.

"The marine environment is the new frontier for conservation. Seventy per cent of New Zealand's endemic species are in the ocean yet the bulk of our historic protective effort has been on land. These five reserves bring the number created this year to 10 alongside those at Akaroa, Kaikoura and three on the Sub-Antarctic Islands. New Zealand now has 44 reserves under the Marine Reserves Act 1971, bringing the total area of no-take areas of protection in the territorial sea to 9.5 per cent," Dr Smith concluded.

2015 RELOCATION SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Getting paid to move to Nelson to study adventure tourism might sound too good to be true, but it's the real deal being offered to those who live outside the Top of the South region by Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology (NMIT), which is offering relocation scholarships of \$1,000 to successful applicants. The \$1,000 fees discount relocation scholarships have been driven by industry demand. Conditions apply. See NMIT.ac.nz, search adventure tourism for more details.

NEW CENTRAL OTAGO BIKE TRACKS PLANNED

Mountain Bikers of Alexandra have signed a management agreement with the Department of Conservation to build and manage mountain bike tracks on public conservation land.

DOC partnership ranger in Alexandra, Jacob Dexter, says, "There's some fantastic mountain biking around Alexandra but few of the established tracks are on public land. This partnership is the first step to achieving that."



ADVENTURE MAGAZINE CLIP SOUTH GETS SOME AIRTIME

The Adventure magazine clip *SOUTH* by Zac and Joel Dickinson was picked up by Go Pro

international and placed on their content site, and within a week it had 25,000 plays, which was great exposure for team Venture Southland and Adventure Magazine - check it out at: vimeo.com/97912693



RAISING A GLASS TO NEW ZEALAND'S FORGOTTEN HEROES

Graeme James of Papamoa was recently contacted by the people at Moa Beer because they wanted to relaunch their Moa Session Pale Ale with his Great-Grandfather, one remarkable Samuel Turner (now passed), featured on their new-look packaging.

You can imagine his surprise.

Graeme says he is chuffed his Great-Grandfather has made his way onto the side of a box of Moa beer. "I didn't know very much about him, but Mum often talked about 'Sammy'. So when Moa rang me out of the blue to say they would like to use a picture of him on some of their new packaging, and told me a little bit more about him, I was blown away," Graeme says.

Sammy was almost one of New Zealand's forgotten heroes. He completed the first traverse of Mt Cook in 1906, made the first ascent of Mt Cook alone in 1919, and claimed the world record for skipping in 1911. "It was wonderful to find out that sort of thing about our family, and to then have it recognized in this way is pretty special," Graeme says.

Jeremy Meech, Moa's Head of Marketing, says his team spent months going through the national archives looking for images of people engaged in a range of recognizable and uniquely-Kiwi pursuits from an era that references Moa's traditional brewing technique to feature on their new-look range of packaging. "We wanted to raise a glass to those inspirational, hard-working, adventurous New Zealanders whose pioneering deeds helped shape our country's identity."

Meech says that tracking down Sammy's family was no mean feat in itself. After trawling through the national archives for information on Sammy and calling almost every Turner in the Wellington and Palmerston North region phonebooks, they eventually tracked Graeme down, which is another story in itself.

Congratulations to Moa Beer for seeing the need to keep those heroes' memories alive we'll look forward to what is coming next on the package ... and it's another good reason to buy a really great NZ beer.

LETTERS



I am not one for writing emails of complaint but when I got my last Adventure Magazine I was a bit disappointed that it had surfing on the cover. There are so many surf magazines I felt we

didn't need another one. But I read it, even the surf story and I was surprised how much it did interest me. So much so that I took the bull by the horns and went and had a surf lesson out at Piha. Now I know that it's not Hawaii and

Dear Adventure Magazine

I am not one for writing emails of complaint but when I got my last Adventure Magazine I was a bit disappointed that it had surfing on the cover. There are so many surf magazines I felt we

the waves are not 20ft but every wave I caught I got more hooked. There was then a period of time with no waves and I had a go at paddle boarding as well and now I am totally hooked on that too, now I'm really looking forward to summer!

Just like to say that sometimes a life change can come from an unexpected corner - I didn't expect to like the feature and I didn't expect to get hooked on surfing either.

Thanks, James Morrison, Auckland

Hey James thanks for the email - we'll fire you something cool in the mail - think we have the "History of Surfing" here - we'll send you that! If anyone else has something to say positive, negative or just interesting fire it through to steve@pacificmedia.co.nz if it gets printed we'll send you something 'special'.

SHARK FINNING BANNED FROM 1 OCTOBER

A ban on the finning of all shark species within New Zealand waters will take effect from 1 October this year.

"Implementing this ban has happened much faster than originally proposed. It reinforces New Zealand's strong international reputation for sustainability and protecting our natural environment," Dr Smith says.

The Ministers released a revised National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (NPOA-Sharks) earlier this year, which included a commitment to phase in the ban on shark finning in New Zealand by October 2016 at the latest. A first tranche of shark species was to be covered by the ban from 1 October 2014, a second tranche from 1 October 2015, and only the highly migratory blue sharks were to be left until 1 October 2016.

"However, consultation with fisheries stakeholders and the public showed that there was widespread support to implement a ban as quickly as possible," Mr Guy says.

"I'm very pleased that the industry has risen to that challenge, and worked with the Ministry for Primary Industries, the Department of Conservation, and other stakeholders to look at options for a more rapid implementation of the ban."

It is already an offence under the Animal Welfare Act to remove the fin from a shark and return it to the sea alive. The ban will also make it illegal to catch a shark, kill it, remove its fins and dump the carcass at sea.

"Sharks play an important role in our marine ecosystems,

and we need to ensure the appropriate management of the 113 species of shark in our waters. This ban builds on New Zealand's proud history of balancing conservation and the prudent use of resources to ensure their long-term sustainability," Dr Smith says.

"This approach will effectively eliminate finning in New Zealand and at the same time, it shouldn't have undue impacts on fishing operations where shark finning doesn't occur and sharks are fully utilised," Mr Guy says. A combination of 'fins attached' and 'weight ratio' methods will be used to implement the ban.

"The 'ratio method' is most appropriate for species where there is already full utilisation, or clear opportunities for increased utilisation. These are all quota species, and the ratio approach will be supported by the comprehensive reporting arrangements as part of the Quota Management System (QMS)."

"The 'fins attached' approach will be applied to non-quota species, for which the monitoring is less stringent, and for two species of shark that are managed within the quota management system.

There will be ongoing monitoring by MPI of the ban with a view to refining management arrangements over time if required.



DANCING ON A DIFFERENT STAGE

Words by Sabina Allemann

Photos by Andrew Peacock/www.footloosephotography.com

WHOOMPH! I was thrown onto the snow for what seemed like the tenth time, I struggled to stand up as another 80 kilometer an hour wind gust tore over me. My husband and fellow climber, Andrew Peacock, reached down to grab the strap on my backpack and with a hefty jerk, hauled me back to my cramponed feet as the gust subsided. No words were exchanged, we just shrugged, turned and continued on, mutely following our guide ever upward on a steep slope toward the summit of 'Single Cone' peak high in the Remarkables Range of New Zealand. I grabbed at the hood of my Gortex jacket, vainly trying to stretch the fabric over my face and stop flying ice pellets from stinging my cheeks as the wind gathered strength once more.







ABOVE: Sabina Allemann climbing the first pitch of 'The Prow' at Wye Creek | RIGHT: Nick Morgan climbing the first pitch of 'The Prow' at Wye Creek

We were on the last day of what had started out as a technical ice-climbing course. On the south island of New Zealand however, you don't dictate the daily schedule, the weather does, and suitable conditions lasted for only three days of ice climbing before our indefatigable guide put a contingency plan into action. A new goal was devised for our small group of five climbers but as I leaned forcefully into the wind, my ice axe handle planted deep into the crusty snow, I ruefully recalled that battling gale force winds hadn't been mentioned in that plan.

I'm a ballerina, or rather I was...I took my final curtain call on the stage of the opulent San Francisco Opera House after a 20 year professional career. My life is very different now; I married an Australian doctor and adventure travel photographer, moved to Australia and have become a dedicated outdoor enthusiast. Climbing, biking and hiking, especially in the mountain regions of the world, have become my new physical outlets. Although I have dabbled in ice climbing (in Sounkyo Gorge on the island of Hokkaido, Japan a few years ago), and enjoyed it, my proficiency is at a beginner's level. I was keen to use the opportunity of a winter trip to New Zealand to revisit this demanding but fun form of climbing but I was wary. Wielding sharp implements while climbing a steep ice face can do some real personal damage if things go awry. When I discovered that 'Adventure Consultants' offered a 5-day course aimed at developing some solid ice climbing skills I signed up hoping the weather and ice-making gods would align to allow for some great conditions.

The Upper Wye Creek basin was the setting for our course. A comfortable winter tent camp had been set up and stocked with food and was only a short but exhilarating helicopter flight away from Queenstown airport. Water run-off down the cliffs at the head of this pretty valley freezes solid in a good winter, forming ice cascades of varying lengths and difficulty and providing a good location for the instruction and experience that I needed. There was doubt initially about whether temperatures had been low enough in the previous few weeks for the ice to thicken up sufficiently, but as we flew in and I got my first glimpse of the blue ice runnels from the helicopter it was clear that there was enough ice there for my needs.

As challenging as it is, or perhaps just because it is, I enjoy throwing a heavy pack on my back and heading up a steep slope to a climbing objective. Which is just as well because that was exactly what was needed to reach the ice, elegantly sculpted by nature, on which we would be

climbing. Our guide, Nick, went through all of our gear. Helmet, check; crampons, check; ice tools, check; harness, check; warm but dexterous gloves, check and the list went on.

Finally it was time to climb. Nick secures a rope above me to the cliff (a top rope), and another of our group acts as my belayer so if I were to slip and fall - as long as I don't accidentally hack through the rope with my sharp tools - it wouldn't be far and I'd be completely safe. Nick gives a few pointers but is relatively silent as he watches me. Kick, kick, I try to get my crampon points securely into the ice. "Keep your heels down" he says, I reach my left arm up and swing the ice axe firmly, "not too hard" comes the advice from below. Shards of ice scatter everywhere. I repeat the process, now right arm up, kick, kick, and up I go. Slowly my body remembers that I have done this before. People often say I must have a 'leg up' (pardon the pun) when it comes to climbing after life as a dancer and I agree this may be partially true, but like all technical activities, nothing comes without practice and I don't feel particularly graceful this first day back on such a slippery slope.

The next day, still on top rope, I receive an unwanted freezing shower from water dripping off the many stalactite formations above as I enjoy the first route of the day. Hmmm, I realize it's getting slightly warmer in the valley already. That's not ideal. I enjoy the challenge of a steeper angle on this route and feel a bit more 'balletic' as I stretch a leg across a small gap to place two crampon points into a solid chunk of ice. Trusting it will hold I rock my weight over the top of that foot and lever upward toward the picks of my ice axes planted in the ice overhead. I hear the click of a camera shutter. Andrew hovers nearby, suspended on a rope from an anchor of ice screws above us, and captures the move before asking me to repeat it a few more times! "Just to make sure I got it", he grins.

Encouraged by my progress I ask Nick if I can get on the 'sharp end' of the rope and step up to leading a climb. He's nonchalant and nods. With the rope below me the consequences of a fall are greater but I spy a short, low angled ramp of ice with only one bulge to overcome. That will be my chosen test. I will need to stop and place a few ice screws for protection along the way. That is one of the so-called 'dark arts' of climbing because it's never comfortable teetering above the ground on small bits of metal embedded a few millimeters into ice while using one hand to twist a tube of sharp edged titanium into that ice at just the right angle.





LEFT: Zac Trembath-Pitham and Mark James crampoon past a chandelier of blue ice at Wye Creek | ABOVE TOP TO BOTTOM: Adventure Consultants Base Camp below the Wye Creek ice climbing cliffs | Nick Morgan (Guide) short ropes Sabina Allemann and Hamish McKay toward an avalanche prone slope on the climb to the summit of Single Cone | RIGHT: Sabina Allemann climbing 'Dirty Rotten Scoundrels' at Wye Creek

winds up high. "It seems pointless going up there" Andrew exclaims but Nick assures us that it's possible to climb Single Cone in ANY conditions. Challenge accepted I quietly think to myself.

The wind has a biting chill to it as we spill out of the car - the only car - at The Remarkables ski field parking lot. The ski lifts are closed for the day because of the forecast. I grab my backpack and scurry to the warmth of the nearby toilets to put on more layers and sort my gear. Nick says the climb should take about five or so hours and I want to make sure I've packed enough food, water and extra clothing to cover that period and then some. A steady pace is set and our small group trudges its way silently upward on the easy snow slopes before eventually gathering at a prominent saddle below our objective. From there it's easy enough to access the ridge we will follow to the top. The saddle though acts to funnel the wind into a concentrated stream and as I set off in Nick's plugged steps I suddenly find myself thrown to the ground by a blast of high velocity frozen air. My balletic poise was good for nothing in such an environment!

Once on the ridge the going becomes even more difficult as we battle to stay upright in the most powerful gusts of wind I've known. Nick is resolute though and it's safe because the terrain is straightforward, so onward and upward we go. The only real hurdle to overcome is a snow filled 80-meter couloir leading to a short but narrow summit ridge. Just before the gully we decide to rope up, lest one of us should accidentally take flight during one of the gale force blasts while on the precarious final section. Nick confidently guides us onto the ridge and after a few exposed, buffeted and exciting steps we are congratulating each other on the 2320-meter high summit of Single Cone.

"Challenge met," I mentioned to Nick. As far as mountaintops go, and I've been lucky enough to stand on a few, this one is superb; beautifully positioned to take in spectacular views of Lake Wakatipu, Queenstown, and the magnificent Southern Alps. Slowly spinning around, arms aloft, I almost took a bow, it did after all feel like a grand stage, not the same as that I was once used to, but nature's stage, perhaps the most satisfying one of all. It was a fitting end to a challenging and fun week for an ex-ballerina.

Although the tents have been blasted by cold strong winds at night, the past couple of days have been mild for winter and so the ice is now a bit thinner. I hesitate briefly; do I really want to do this? An internal dialogue about risk versus reward is a healthy part of the activity of climbing. The desire for reward and the sense of control over risk wins out and I tie into the rope.

With the first few swings of my ice tools I dislodge dinner plate sized chunks from the top layer of brittle ice. Moving upward I shout out a warning to my belayer to watch me carefully as I struggle to find solid purchase in the better ice underneath. Technically the climbing is not too difficult and I continue on and manage to get an ice screw into a decent section of ice. I can relax somewhat after that but then an attempt to do the same just below the steeper bulge section further on fails miserably. I'm not sure what to do, the ice cracks around the metal and the screw is too long to place elsewhere in what is thinner ice. I take a deep breath and decide to go for it. Climbing on seemed a less daunting task than down climbing the brittle ice. A few careful tool placements and the flexibility of a ballerina to make a high step over the bulge gets me to a safer spot and then the top was easily reached. Raised eyebrows greet me when I reach ground level again, "that was a long way between ice screws Sabina!"

As luck would have it because a storm system moved in, that was the last chance I would get to lead on ice. We stuck it out in the valley for another day but it was too windy, too warm and the ice was getting too fragile for safe climbing. Instead of reclining in the tents all day we went for a wander up the slope to an icy wonderland. At a large overhanging cliff a beautiful cave has formed where glistening ice chandeliers hang from the edge of the rock. Protected from the weather we dawdled, transfixed by these large translucent, crystalline structures which provided the perfect back drop for an afternoon of photography with Andrew in a magical setting. The next day we were chased out down the valley by a front of howling sleet and rain.

On the last day of the course the sky is crystal clear, but a glance to the peaks towering over Queenstown reveals spindrift spiraling off the top - a sure sign of strong

FACT FILE:

For more information on their ice climbing and other courses go to the Adventure Consultants website: www.adventureconsultants.com

Things to do in winter in and around Queenstown:
Freeze your face off on an exhilarating jetboat ride down the Shotover River:

www.shotoverjet.com

Nordic skiing and dog sledding at The Snowfarm: www.snowfarmnz.com

Downhill skiing at The Remarkables or Coronet Peak: www.nzski.com

Of course there's always bungy jumping: www.bungy.co.nz

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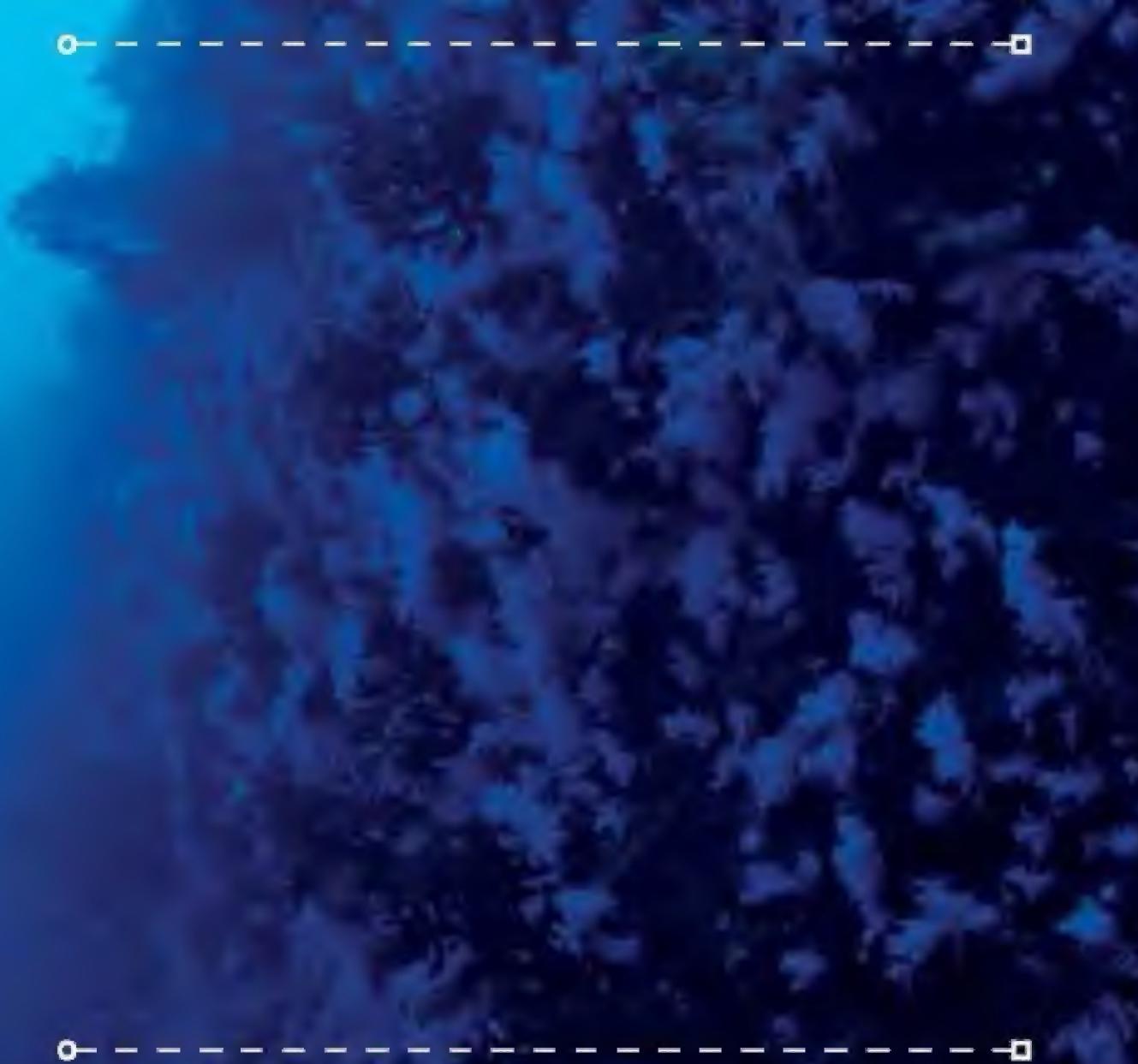
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The *Pro Dive Team* will check currents and drop divers at the Great White Wall during the best time to experience its world re-known '*Soft Coral Capital of the World*', as they open up and extend to feed on nutrients. With daily dives on board one of four dive boats, divers descend through a wide coral-encrusted swim-through filled with squirrelfish and crinoids. Upon exit, divers drift along around 80 feet admiring a deep wall completely covered in blooming white soft coral. Rainbow Reef is not known for its deep dives, however Great White Wall affords divers the opportunity to indulge in the unique beauty of its wall descending into the abyss below. Keep an eye out for impressive dogtooth tuna and passing eagle rays. Photographers can savor in the sweeping views of the wall, a wide-angle shooters dream. In order to fully appreciate the breadth of Great White Wall's beauty, divers can swim out into the blue and take it all in, a magnificent sight to behold.

Just when you thought a fantastic dive was ending, the Great White Wall, only 30 minutes from the resorts private marina, continues to amaze. Divers ascend to the reef above through yet another gorgeous swim-through, flush with rays of light signaling the arrival to shallower depths. The scene is vibrant and electric with life everywhere you look. The reef teams with fish life, large and small, morays, anemones, barracudas, and reef sharks. Macro life also thrives on the reef home to nubibranches, soft coral crabs and banded cleaner shrimp.



Divers roll in at Rainbow's End and descend down to about 50 feet where a mild current drifts parallel to a sloping reef with a white sandy bottom. Red, yellow, orange, purple, and pink soft corals take the main stage, their striking beauty showcased in gin clear water, a true rainbow of color everywhere you look. Moorish idols, surgeonfish, butterflyfish, angelfish and parrotfish all swim in and out of endless coral growth. Blacktip and whitetip reef sharks can be spotted resting on the sandy bottom, accompanied by remoras, a fantastic shot for photographers. Divers stop drifting from time to time to admire the brilliant soft coral reefscape, while some inch closer to resting sharks to get an up close look at these elusive creatures.

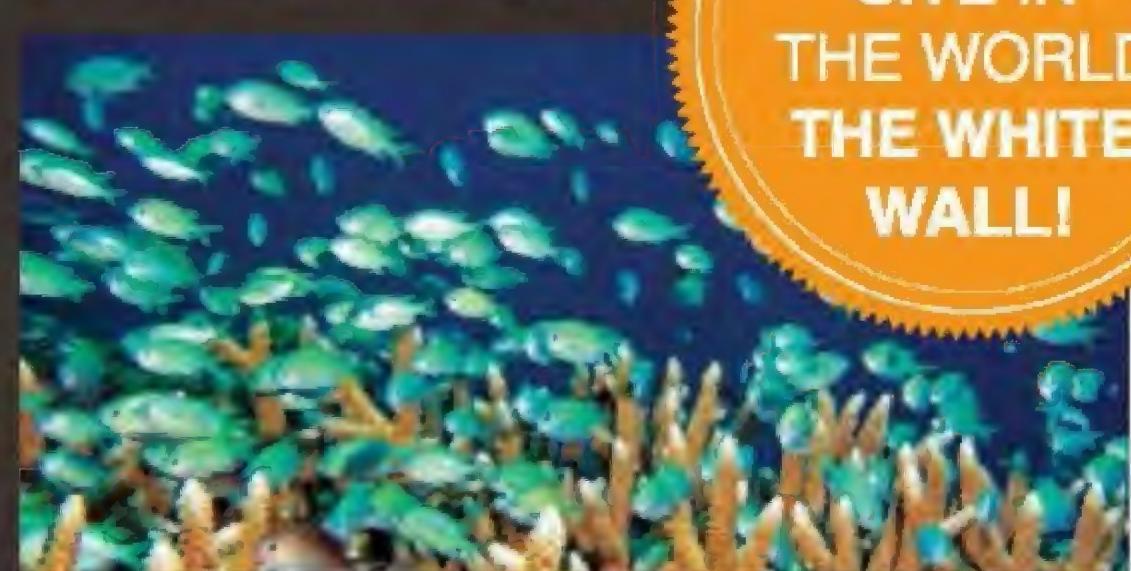
Take advantage of **FREE** unlimited shore dives during your stay from the private marina with a Pro Dive Package. Paradise offers over 40 spectacular dive sites to choose from.

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TAHITI TEAHUOO *Séreure*

Words and Images by Steve and Zac Dickinson

When you do something on a regular basis, with that repetition often comes boredom. That can't be said of Tahiti. Every year I get invited to shoot the Billabong Pro at Teahupoo, every year I wonder will it be better than the year before, will there be waves, will it rain, will the sun shine, will I drown, will I get killed on the 45min drive of terror from town to the end of the road.?

Some years it has been almost flat, some years like the year aptly named Code Red it was as big as waves get anywhere in the world. But every year offers something new, something different. This year we were blessed with great waves, sunny days and perfect conditions.







PREVIOUS PAGE: Owen Wright on the wave of the day | ABOVE: Magic moments are a daily occurrence



ABOVE: The legendary Kelly Slater, Image by Greg Boissy | BELOW: The best view in town

To be 100% honest it is really not about the competition, it is about the setting, a vibe, the experience and the people. Teahupoo is God's perfect arena for sport, a natural amphitheatre of action, everything so close, with huge waves breaking that close to the boat, you can see the look of horror in the eyes of those paddling and you can hear clearly the scream of success and the curses of failure.

Teahupoo is synonymous with big waves - but what does it actually mean?

Teahupoo seems to mean many things and often quoted as meaning: The end of the Road, Broken head, Shaved head or Wall of skulls etc but the translation I prefer is one by Peva Levy.

According to Peva Levy, local Tahitian historian, Teahupoo is in fact the name of the place, not the name of the break! The name of the reef pass created by the river that collects the waters from the mountains behind the place is "Havae". It is quite a wide and deep pass compared with the normal reef passes. The name of the actual break, the break where you see all these incredible waves in photos and videos is "Pererure", and it has its own legend as well.

It tells the story that the first surfer to ride waves in Pererure (for us Teahupoo) was in fact a girl! She was a very beautiful and brave Tahitian female called "Vehiatua"! Vehiatua means "Cult of God"! Vehiatua managed to control the power of these incredible yet dangerous waves and surf them with grace. Because the place was very dangerous the girl named it "Pererure". Teahupoo's chief became very jealous of Vehiatua's ability to surf such dangerous waves that he ended up killing the girl - expecting to absorb her skills to master the art of riding Pererure's waves. He tried many times but he was never capable of riding the waves of Pererure. The chief was eventually killed by the girl's family in an act of revenge. But the wave that the world now calls Teahupoo, is in fact called Pereure.



But regardless of what you call it, it is impressive and possibly the most impressive of all waves in the world. In a world where video and images capture every moment of every action and spews it forth instantly on every platform, Teahupoo has been recorded in its many and variable states from small and majestic to giant and powerful. I guess like the sea it is ever changing but even in its calmer moments there is a level of expectation that a monster is just sleeping.

Although the waves are amazing and the setting equally so, one thing that always leaves you with such an impression about Tahiti, is the people. Tahitians like many of the South Pacific people are very outgoing, unlike many of their western counterparts. If you paddle out at any break in Tahiti the locals will paddle up, say 'Hi' shake your hand ask you where you are from and call you into waves. That does not happen in New Zealand. In New Zealand you'll get stared at, ignored, harassed, and the locals will do all in their power to stop you getting waves. The Tahitian attitude is not just on the water, if you make an effort to respond in like, soon you will be asked home for dinner, and you'll be drinking beers under a palm tree with your new friends. I know it was a completely different



ABOVE: The PRESSing crowd

scenario - and the young women dressed in just a grass skirt were possibly the biggest draw card - but you can see why the Bounty crew had such a difficult time leaving this island.

As well as welcoming and a generous way of the being, Tahitians also have a blend of 'island time' and 'everything will be ok' view of life. As you are bobbing about in the channel at Teahupoo and everyone's life is on the line due to rogue waves, you are well aware that the boats - as with many things in Tahiti - are expensive. But the proximity to each other, the number of people in the water, the ever present surge - boats collide and sometimes hard enough to punch a hole. Now if this was New Zealand in the same way we have road rage there would be chaos, there would be abuse, swearing, legal action, fist fights but the Tahitian view seems to be as long as you are not sinking 'its ok' and it is a phrase you will hear a lot 'its ok its ok' followed by a wave of the hand and a rise of the eyebrows. I asked our boat driver about his attitude and his reply was simple 'what you gonna do if you cause a problem how is it gonna fix the hole?'

There are a lot of things that make up a destination – the weather, the scenery, things to do, the food, the culture but the main thing that makes up any destination is the people. The people of Tahiti are truly unique, I am sure it's that mix of French and Polynesia, a real deep pride in who they are and where they are from. A real love of their culture and not just a show for the tourist, a love of culture a real deep and meaningful link to the past and present. I am sure like everywhere they have their issues but every time I travel there I try hard to bring a little bit of that attitude back with me. And when that guy steals your parking space or pushes in front of you at Countdown, a little taste of Tahiti comes to my lips and 'it's ok, it's ok'.

TAHITI FACT FILE:

- The word tattoo originated in Tahiti. The legend of Tohu, the god of tattoo, describes painting all the oceans' fish in beautiful colours and patterns. In Polynesian culture, tattoos have long been considered signs of beauty, and in earlier times were ceremoniously applied when reaching adolescence.
- There are more hotel rooms in a typical Las Vegas hotel than on all 118 islands of French Polynesia.
- Hawaii gets more visitors in 10 days than Tahiti does in an entire year.
- There are no poisonous snakes or insects in French Polynesia.
- Moorea means "yellow lizard" which is a name taken from a family of chiefs.
- Natives of the lush Austral Islands grow many crops in the fertile soil. Due to their diets of foods rich in fluoride, people from these temperate isles have beautiful white teeth.
- Over half of the population is under the age of 20 years old.
- Tahiti and Her Islands covers over two million square miles of the South Pacific Ocean and is comprised of five great archipelagos with 118 islands.
- The Chinese population (about 10 percent) monopolizes the retail trade, so when Tahitians talk about going shopping, they say they are going to "la Chine" or to the Chinese.
- The letter "B" does not exist in the Tahitian language. Bora Bora is actually Pora Pora, meaning first born, but early visitors heard it as Bora Bora.
- The translation of Papeete (Tahiti's capital) is "water basket".
- Those things that look like mail boxes outside the homes of Tahitian residents are not for mail, but for French bread delivery. Residents get a fresh loaf dropped off twice a day. But alas, they must go to the post office to retrieve their mail!



MUTINY:

The Mutiny on the Bounty was a mutiny aboard the Royal Navy ship HMS Bounty on 28 April 1789. The mutiny was led by Fletcher Christian against their captain, Lieutenant William Bligh. According to accounts, the sailors were attracted to the "idyllic" life and sexual opportunities afforded on the Pacific island of Tahiti. It has also been argued that they were motivated by Bligh's allegedly harsh treatment of them.

Eighteen mutineers set Bligh afloat in a small boat with eighteen of the twenty-two crew loyal to him. To avoid detection and prevent desertion, the mutineers then variously settled on Pitcairn Island or on Tahiti and burned Bounty off Pitcairn.

In an extraordinary feat of seamanship, Bligh navigated the 23-foot (7 m) open launch on a 47-day voyage to Timor in the Dutch East Indies, equipped with a quadrant and pocket watch and without charts or compass. He recorded the distance as 3,618 nautical miles (6,701 km; 4,164 mi). He then returned to Britain and reported the mutiny to the Admiralty on 15 March 1790, 2 years and 11 weeks after his original departure.

The British government dispatched HMS Pandora to capture the mutineers, and Pandora reached Tahiti on 23 March 1791. Four of the men from Bounty came on board soon after her arrival, and ten more were arrested within a few weeks. These fourteen were imprisoned in a makeshift cell on Pandora's deck. Pandora ran aground on part of the Great Barrier Reef on 29 August 1791, with the loss of 31 of the crew and four of the prisoners. The surviving ten prisoners were eventually repatriated to England, tried in a naval court, with three hanged, four acquitted, and three pardoned. Descendants of some of the mutineers and Tahitians still live on Pitcairn. The mutiny has been commemorated in books, films, and songs.



DEATHS AT TEAHUPO'O:

Teahupo'o was included on Transworld Surf's list of the 'Top 10 Deadliest Waves' and is commonly referred to as the "heaviest wave in the world".

There have been 5 recorded deaths at Teahupo'o since 2000. Most notably was local Tahitian surfer Briece Taerea who was killed at Teahupo'o in 2000, just one week before the annual Teahupo'o WCT event, Taerea attempted to duck-dive a dangerous 12-foot wave but was thrown over the falls, landing head first onto the reef. He was recovered from the water, but died later in hospital, suffering from two broken cervical vertebrae and severed spinal cord, resulting in paralysis from the neck down.



WAITOMO'S DARK SIDE

Words and Images by Neil Silverwood



Beyond Waitomo a row of buses stretches down the road in a seemingly endless line and every available car park is full. Nearby, the Waitomo Stream emerges from a dark hole at the base of the cliff. A river rumbles from within. It's the attraction of the unknown that drew the first human explorers here. The first documented cavers to enter, in the late 1800's, were Tane Tinorau, a Māori Chief, and Fred Mace. What they discovered defied belief and put Waitomo down as one of the most popular tourist destinations in New Zealand.

The name Waitomo is a combination of the Māori words wai and tomo which together mean water shaft or hole. The cave was known to locals long before Mace and Chief Tinorau first explored inside. The first entry was made by floating on a raft into the cave. They carried lanterns producing a flickering, airy light but they mightn't have as the roof was peppered with glow worms, enough to aluminize the passage without additional lights.

Glow worms are the larvae of a small fly called a fungus gnat. The glowing green pinpoints of light that they emit are a chemical reaction designed to attract prey; they also attract tourists. When Mace and Chief Tinorau first began exploration of the cave, they likely never envisaged some

A caver rappels down a 50m shaft into Fred, one of Waitomo's sportiest caves.



ABOVE: The upper levels of Gardners Gut are a stroll for cavers. This is the longest cave system in the North Island. | RIGHT: Kieran McKay ascends a tomo using single rope technique. | FOLLOWING PAGE: Delicate formations in a hidden gallery in a little known Waitomo cave.

2,000 people visiting the cave each day during New Zealand's summer months.

Visitors get a short but dramatic glimpse into another world. Most, though, are wholly unaware that they've only experienced the tip of the iceberg on their tour. The Waitomo region is made up of karst, a term used to describe landscapes characterised by sinkholes, ravines, and underground streams, a bit like Swiss cheese. There are estimated to be over 200 square km of karst in the Waitomo region and cavers have explored and surveyed hundreds of caves. The area has become a Mecca for caving and exploration.

Most of the cave systems are privately owned and managed by farmers. Historically in New Zealand, landholders own from the property surface to the centre of the earth and upwards into the atmosphere. The relationship between the people and the karst landscape they live on is unique. Many locals make a living from farming but the majority are involved in the adventure tourism industry. I visit Waitomo every few years and always notice a few new signs for companies trying to break into the market. Adventure activities range from floating on an inner tube beneath a roof of glow worms to riding a flying fox through a hall lined with massive stalagmites.

Managing these caves is a balancing act. The cave environment is extremely fragile and any human impact or damage made to the caves will be visible for many thousands of years. Unlike other natural environments, caves grow, change and repair themselves exceptionally slowly. For example, if a forest is clear-cut, it has the potential to re-generate, to a degree, within our lifetime. Compared to forests, cave formations grow at a glacial pace, perhaps a centimetre every 100 years. If we carelessly knock a stalactite or stalacmite, the damage will be visible for thousands if not tens of thousands of years.

It is also this quality, slow change, which makes caves so special. Caves are natural museums which have captured the history of life on this planet. Thirty million years ago Waitomo lay beneath the ocean. A mixture of shells, corals and sand settled on the sea floor forming a calcareous ooze. Slowly the area was uplifted by plate tectonics. The next step is fascinating. While most rocks can only be broken down through erosion, limestone is alkaline (non-acidic) and is readily dissolved by rainwater. H₂O with a dash of carbon dioxide picked up from the atmosphere forms a weak carbonic acid which dissolves the rock away. To do this, water works its way into thin fractures in the rock, etching them out millimetre by millimetre.

As the water carves the stone away it exposes fossils. While small shells are common, occasionally cavers make more intriguing discoveries such as sharks teeth protruding from the walls or large whale skeletons. One cave in the south island has a whale's vertebrae crossing the width of an open passage, another has a rib cage jutting out. Caves also record New Zealand's more modern history. For instance, moa bones are extremely common underground. The ungainly birds fed on the lush plants growing around the tops of depressions and holes leading into the caves and would occasionally slip and tumble in. The remains of the birds do not break down and are preserved intact for thousands of years because the environment inside a cave is constant—humidity is 100% and the temperature stays the same year round. Sunlight does not penetrate very far, if at all.









ABOVE: Cavers traverse upper levels in Fred. The streamway which formed these has now cut down and formed a new active passage below.
BELOW: Flexible electron ladders allow cavers to safely explore wet pitches.

New Zealand is currently in a period of geologic uplift. As Waitomo is slowly raised, cave passages dry out and new levels form below. Eventually passages will break through the surface, in the process washing limestone into the ocean and continuing the evolution of cave structures. In many ways a cave follows a life cycle much like any living thing. Although the formation process for every cave is the same, all caves are surprisingly unique.

Some of the classic caves in Waitomo include Gardner's Gut, a vast horizontal system some 12km long, Lost World, a massive gash in the earth where cavers repel 100m down a shaft into a small forest growing at the bottom, and the Mangawhiticow which has a river flowing through it. Cavers often have to navigate rapids and waterfalls along the way. Each of these caves is vastly different and they all have their own character.

There is a lifetime of exploring to be done in Waitomo's caves and it has been a spring board for many caving careers. It is a terrific place to learn skills such as rigging and surveying deep underground. Caving enthusiasts can fund their passion by working in cave tourism by day and exploring further in the evenings. Waitomo caves do not require the same level of physical commitment as the alpine caves in the South Island. That being said, even after experiencing some incredible trips into more demanding caves, Waitomo's charm still lures cavers back.

For a taste of caving with knowledgeable guides, both Waitomo Adventures and The legendary Black Water Rafting Company offer excellent trips. If you're hankering for a true caving adventure with an eye to break into the sport then joining the New Zealand Speleological Society might be just the ticket. Alternatively the New Zealand Caving School offers courses on the South Island. The school is a not for profit organisation that runs three to five day vertical caving courses.

For more information check out: www.caves.org.nz | www.nzcavingschool.com





THE ENERGY EXPERIENCE EXPLORING THE OUTDOORS

An Energy Experience kayak journey in association with outdoor experience instructors is to be found in the natural environs of the Pohutukawa coast on Auckland's doorstep. It starts with a meal full of essential nutrients at Sunkist Bay in Beachlands and journeys eastward towards Tapapakanga and Waharau. The options are for one day, overnight, three days or a fun 2 hour package.

Just pause in the paddle. Let the nooks under the Pohutukawas, the smell of the ocean and the changing colours where water meets sky sink into your veins.

After lunch on Maraetai beach enjoy a welcome on Umupuia beach. On the first night watch the moon's path map out onto the water and in the morning watch the sunrise as its shaft of reflective light digs a path through the ripples until golden fingers ease up onto the shells lining the coast whilst across the grass, spider's webs shimmer like tiny trip wires strung between green pins.

The next leg stops for a bit near Waitawa Regional park with a gorgeous view of the Tamaki Strait, turquoise in its sparkle across to Ponui Island and Waiheke. Ask our intrepid Outdoor's Experience instructors to set up a sail between the kayaks. America's Cup eat your heart out...who needs a foil.

After Tawhitokino and Orere, Tapapakanga will arrive all too soon and like me perhaps you may not be able to hide your jealousy from the instructors this playground is their office not yours.

Being out there on the ocean looking to shore, one gains an appreciation of our unique place in Aotearoa and the richness of our land. It is a journey of the present and the past and for the sake of future generations we should look after its path. There is so much we can learn about the bush, about the sea, and about the history of the past giving us a clearer view of the future.

Gain your sense of wairua or spirit on the Pohutukawa Coast whether kayaking or mountain biking from Beachlands.

If you only have limited time participate in one of our fun races to 'Tortuga' (Motukaraka). In August we had four teams of youth who entered our Captain Hook and Tiger Lily Race to find treasure buried on the island. Everyone enjoyed the camaraderie, skulduggery and spirit of the day. Where were the rum shots you ask? There were beetroot shots all round....

Join us in the outdoors any time. We have regular trips scheduled, but any trip is available for groups of eight at your request ahead of time. The next Captain Hook race is in March 2015.
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IT ISN'T JUST ABOUT THE SNOW



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THERE ARE **8** GLACIERS ON MOUNT RUAPEHU AND THEY ARE THE ONLY GLACIERS FOUND IN THE NORTH ISLAND

1879

BY GEORGE BEETHAM & JOSEPH MAXWELL

DESCRIBED AS THE BEST SHORT WALK IN TONGARIRO NATIONAL PARK, THE SKYLINE WALK SHOWCASES THE STUNNING VIEWS ON OFFER BY CLIMBING TO SKYLINE RIDGE

As summer looms, majestic Mount Ruapehu sheds its winter coat (well most of it) and reveals its slopes for a whole new world of fun and enjoyment. Each year the Tongariro Crossing receives upward of 110K trampers (increasing at approximately 10% PA) across its unique trails, but few realise the secrets they are missing just a stone's throw away on Mount Ruapehu.

The raw beauty of a World Heritage National Park and the alpine terrain of the North Island's highest peak make for one of the country's most adventurous playgrounds. Wild as it may sound; Mt Ruapehu is easily visited and is a safe and spectacular way to become acquainted with the volcanoes of Tongariro National Park.

These volcanic walks are the perfect way to explore the mountain. There is something here for everyone from hardcore trampers to those just wishing to go walking with the kids. There are a number of short walks, ranging from 30 minutes to 2 hours return, which will take you through the alpine terrain without needing a high level of fitness. Described as the best short walk in Tongariro National Park, the Skyline Walk showcases the stunning views on offer by climbing to Skyline Ridge (2,300m) before returning to the top of the chairlift. Other volcanic walks include the Amphitheatre and the Meads Wall Walk, a favourite with Lord of the Rings fans.

All volcanic walks are marked but are not on formed tracks, so good hiking boots are recommended. If all this seems a little too much, take the chair lift up and ease your tired legs to the highest café in New Zealand, a beautiful café awarded for its architectural design, while taking in the views on the way up.

In a bit more detail:

MEADS WALL ROUTE: Ten minutes return from Iwikau Village, at the top of the Bruce Road. Follow the route to Meads Wall - a spectacular rocky outcrop which was one of the filming locations for Lord of the Rings. Meads Wall drops off steeply and care is required whilst standing at the edge to enjoy spectacular views of the valley below and Ngauruhoe to the northeast.

SKYLINE ROUTE: If you don't do anything else this summer do the Skyline Route. 2 hours return from the top of the Waterfall Express chairlift, Whakapapa Ski Area. This walk follows

a poled route, marked only in summer, over steep rocky terrain and loose scree. There is no formed track. This walk is not recommended in winter, in poor weather and/or snow or ice cover. Follow the marker poles beside the Valley T-bar line, at the top of the T-bar, climb up the side of the ridge to your left for fantastic views.

WALK TO MT RUAPEHU'S CRATER LAKE WITH A GUIDE: Visiting the Crater Lake will be one of the most memorable experiences you'll ever have. Often overlooked in preference to the Tongariro Crossing it's been described as the best one day walk in New Zealand. It is impressive that both the crossing and the Crater lake are in such proximity to each other and so highly acclaimed – you could always do both. Guided Crater Lake walks are led by experienced guides at an easy pace, so there's plenty of time for rest breaks and informative talks. You will be hosted and entertained by Ruapehu's own Safety and mountaineering guides along with local Ngati Hikairo Cultural guides. Under their care you will venture through rugged volcanic terrain and learn about the geological and cultural significance of the mountain and Tongariro world heritage and Culture. The Park also has a high chance of snow even in summer.

Guided walks leave from the Top of the Bruce daily at 9.30am, weather dependent. Bookings are essential and can be made by phoning 0508 RUAPEHU (782-734) or email info@mtruapehu.com

The following gear is essential if you want to complete the Crater Lake Walk:

- Sturdy tramping boots (not runners or gumboots) – these are available to hire at the Whakapapa retail shop
- Waterproof jacket and over trousers – also available to hire at the Whakapapa retail shop
- sunglasses and sunscreen
- Warm hat and gloves
- Lunch and refreshments

You'll need to have a reasonable level of fitness and be able to walk for 5 hours with rest stops.

Other great walks to do when visiting Mt Ruapehu and of the same calibre around the area include

TAMA LAKES TRAMPING TRACK:

5-6 hours, 17 kilometres return on same track. Begins 100 metres below the DOC Visitor Centre at the end of Ngauruhoe Place. This track is an extension of the Taranaki Falls Track and part of the

Tongariro Northern Circuit and Round the Mountain Tracks. At the top of Taranaki Falls, the track branches off the Taranaki Falls Walk, to cross rolling tussock country and alpine herb fields. Further on, the track branches left to Tama Lakes, while the main track continues on to Waihohonu Hut. There is a view of the lower lake (1240 metres), and then the track climbs steeply to a viewpoint (1440 metres) of the upper lake. Tama Lakes occupy several old explosion craters on Tama Saddle between Ruapehu and Ngauruhoe. The saddle acts as a funnel for prevailing westerly winds and windproof clothing is recommended.

TONGARIRO CROSSING: Often described as New Zealand's greatest day walk, the Tongariro Alpine Crossing is a challenging journey across a remarkable volcanic landscape.

Beginning at Mangatepopo Valley near Wakapapa, the track climbs alongside a stream and around the edges of old lava flows. The age of different lava flows is indicated by the extent to which plants have re-established themselves on the harsh black lava rocks. Near the head of the valley, the Soda Springs are an oasis for the moisture loving yellow buttercups and white foxgloves.

The steep climb from the valley to Mangatepopo Saddle between Mount Ngauruhoe and Mount Tongariro is rewarded by panoramic views, which on a clear day reach as far as Mount Taranaki.

The track then descends to three water-filled explosion craters called the Emerald Lakes. Their brilliant greenish colour is caused by minerals that have leached from the surrounding thermal area. The crossing continues over Central Crater to Blue Lake - an old volcanic vent.

After rounding the flanks of North Crater, the descent continues through tussock slopes to the forest bushline. The cool, green forest is refreshing on the long descent to the end of the journey.

The Tongariro Alpine Crossing takes seven to eight hours in the direction described. The opposite direction is more uphill and takes an hour longer. Local transport operators offer connections with the track.

For more information about the region - guided tours, accommodation even weather reports go to:
www.mtruapehu.com or email them on info@mtruapehu.com

WHAKAPAPA HAS A TOTAL LIFT CAPACITY OF 15,000 PEOPLE PER HOUR

SOME OF THE SCENES FROM THE LORD OF THE RINGS TRILOGY WERE FILMED ON THE SLOPES OF MT RUAPEHU

2,300m IS THE HIGHEST LIFT POINT ON WHAKAPAPA, IT IS SLIGHTLY HIGHER ON TUROA AT 2,322m
MT RUAPEHU BOAST THE HIGHEST CAFE IN NEW ZEALAND

BACKCOUNTRY

Words and Images by Anthony Gradiska



ABOVE: On Te heuheu summit with all that ruapehu goodness in the background | RIGHT: Boot packing the upper pinnacles ridge..

At the start of this season my brother and I decided to fork out a bunch of our hard earned cash on some back country ski touring kit... avalanche transceiver, probe, shovel, skins, ice axe, crampons, touring bindings etc.

Like many north islanders we learned to ski on the magic Mt Ruapehu and subsequently spent season after season shredding the rock garden and tenants valley, popping airs off every foot high snow covered rock we could find, feeling like kings of the mountain, eventually graduating to the upper mountain, every weekend was a new adventure discovering our new favourite run.

Fast forward a couple of decades, on a really warm first Sunday in spring, with the snow quickly melting, were standing in the car park feeling like kids again, with our new toys heading on a new adventure. This time however it involves a lot more slogging up than shredding down as we forego the lifts instead opting for manpower. Our plan for the day is to ascend via broken leg gully onto the upper pinnacles ridge and topping out on Te Heuheu summit followed by a super fun ski decent back to the where we started.

We set off late morning from top of the Bruce, staying wide trying to dodge the barrage of on coming beginner snow ploughs, as we skinned up the rock garden, along hut flat, under the express and into the bottom of

broken leg gully.

Away from the crowds of the ski field, this is where the adventure begins. In high winter broken leg gully is a pretty mellow ski run but with the warm temperatures a lot of snow had disappeared and cracks were starting to appear in the snow pack, with the un-nerving sound of a stream running beneath, fed by waterfalls cascading off the surrounding cliffs and rocks tumbling off the pinnacles above as the ice that held them in place melted. We moved quickly to get out of harms way but were stopped in our tracks at the top of the gully by a steep mix of rock, soft spring snow and patches of ice resisting the heat of the sun. At this point the skis came off and we clambered out on foot with the aid of axe and crampons.

After a quick lunch break we kept moving and before long we were above the lift line staring excitedly up the gut of the un-tracked Te Heuheu valley. From here we slogged on up the skyline and on to the upper pinnacles ridge where we got our first bit of exposure with some incredible looking terrain to the east and passing cloud adding to the electric atmosphere we were really starting to feel alive.

As we gained in altitude the temperature started to drop and with it the snow quality really started to improve and the anticipation

of the run down started to build. We had still had a fair way to go however and there were still two rocky bluffs to negotiate, both with a classic Ruapehu mixed bag of ice, dust on crust, rock and knee deep drifts.

The exposure here was amazing and the magnitude of this incredible snow covered volcano and the quality of the terrain really came to light, it hit me like a brick at that point I started completely frothing, I wanted to ski everything I saw but new it was impossible, there is way too much, literally a lifetime of epic skiing waiting for anyone willing to put in the effort to go out and get it.

Now with the last two obstacles behind us and my little fit of child like excitement out of the way we packed away the axe and crampons for the last time and were back in touring mode for one last push to the summit.

After four hours of climbing we were there, standing at 2732 metres on Te Heuheu the second highest peak on Ruapehu, soaking it all in. the gob smacking views to the south confirming what we already new, with peak after peak of epic skiable terrain Mt Ruapehu really is world class..

The run down you ask? A leg burning 1000m vertical of the sweetest whakapapa spring corn you can imagine. If you want to know more than that you're gonna have to ski it for yourself...

IF YOU HAVE A STORY YOU'D LIKE PUBLISHED, GET IN TOUCH WITH STEVE@PACIFICMEDIA.CO.NZ





Always take the weather with you?

STORY: Andrea Corrigan, New Zealand Mountain Safety Council

The weather – a source of endless debate and discussion the world over. Famous literary works from Shakespeare to Harry Potter are littered with weather-related quotes, there are whole websites dedicated to songs featuring weather conditions, it's an easy conversation starter which oils the wheels of social connectivity and a simple Google search throws up 326 million results! Quite simply we're hooked.

In New Zealand, the debate over what type of summer we are going to have begins months in advance, 'friendly' rivalries exist between cities claiming to be the sunniest, plus much speculation surrounds what the weather will do on Christmas Day. So you can be forgiven for thinking that we're a nation obsessed with the atmospheric adjustments in our environment.

Whilst many industries such as farming, tourism, aviation and construction rely on accurate weather forecasts to do business, those undertaking activities in the outdoors, especially in remote areas also recognise that personal survival can often depend on our ability to accurately read the weather.

WHY IS THE WEATHER AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN OUR OUTDOOR EXPERIENCES?

From a recreational perspective, whether you're running a commercial activity or participating in outdoor pursuits personally, knowing what the weather is going to do can significantly impact your plans before you go or affect the outcome once you're out there.

Weather can have a major impact on any trip into the outdoors. An easy and relaxed trip in warm weather can be physically and mentally demanding if the weather turns cold and wet. Strong winds, soft snow or high rivers may make your planned route impassable. Bad weather can also lead to poor decision-making and have tragic consequences.

Duncan Ferner, from New Zealand Search and Rescue (NZSAR), says that poor weather is often a major factor in many of New Zealand's search and rescue operations.

'A swift change in weather can really catch people out and is why you should be prepared for a variety of eventualities. Tourists are especially susceptible to changes in weather because many come from countries with more stable and predictable weather patterns. They simply aren't used to experiencing four seasons in one day!'

But it's not just tourists who underestimate weather, Kiwis also have difficulties with our fast-changing conditions. New Zealand's weather can change dramatically in a few minutes, putting those who are poorly prepared at risk. Perhaps a better understanding of weather and more awareness would lead to better outcomes?

John Law, MetService meteorologist, provides the answers to some common weather queries:

WHY IS IT SO CHALLENGING TO FORECAST THE WEATHER IN NEW ZEALAND?

'New Zealand's position on the planet is the key factor here. We are midway between the tropics and the poles and are surrounded by water. This along with the unique orography (mountainous terrain) of our country, can bend, distort and even block the rainfall from approaching weather systems from reaching certain parts of the country.'

WHY DOES THE WEATHER IN NZ CHANGE SO QUICKLY?

'The geographical factors already mentioned contribute to changing conditions. Also, for much of the year we are right in the firing line of the 'roaring forties', which is a relentless storm track of weather systems that feeds across the Southern Ocean.'

... personal survival can often depend on our ability to accurately read the weather."

HOW ACCURATE ARE WEATHER FORECASTS?

'MetService forecasts are very accurate when you consider the complexities of New Zealand's physical position and unique orography. Our forecast accuracy results from our most recent annual report are as high as 96%.'

HOW FAR IN ADVANCE CAN I TRUST THE FORECAST?

'Forecast accuracy varies depending on the complexity of a weather situation. A more complex weather situation is prone to greater timing differences and/or changes the further out in time you go. Conversely, in a more simple weather scenario, like a big blocking high, you can expect conditions to remain similar for longer so the long range forecast will usually be more accurate.'

WHAT IF I AM GOING INTO MOUNTAINOUS TERRAIN – DOES THE FORECAST STILL APPLY?

'Weather conditions at higher altitudes are usually more extreme than at sea level. When heading into the mountains, it makes sense to learn how the weather could potentially affect your trip; for example, if a front speeds up, the forecast can change quickly to gales and rain or even snow.'

HOW SHOULD PEOPLE PREPARE WEATHER-WISE FOR AN OUTDOORS ADVENTURE?

Check the MetService mountain forecasts and the Mountain Safety Council avalanche advisories. Know the terrain you are going into and what the extremes of weather can do to the various parts of your route, for example, a strong northwest funnelling over a divide or saddle. Try and stay up to date with the latest forecast information.

PLANNING AN OUTDOORS ADVENTURE SHOULD ALWAYS INVOLVE THE WEATHER

The New Zealand Mountain Safety Council (MSC) recommends that you plan and prepare effectively before heading into the outdoors. A good place to start is to follow the five simple rules of the Outdoor Safety Code. MSC's Operations Manager, Nathan Watson says: 'New Zealand's weather can be highly unpredictable and understanding the weather is paramount if you spend a lot of time in the outdoors.'

'Even experienced outdoor enthusiasts can encounter difficulties so it makes sense to learn how to read the signs and interpret weather patterns. Taking a mountain radio is a good idea as most services provide brief weather updates.'

'If you're already out and the weather unexpectedly deteriorates, having a back-up plan which includes extra supplies or alternative routes is prudent. Lastly, always take a personal locator beacon (PLB) which can be used to summon help in an emergency,' added Mr Watson.

A trip into the outdoors should be enjoyable and challenge you within your limits.

For more information about how to discover more safely, visit:
www.mountainsafety.org.nz
www.adventuresmart.org.nz
www.avalanche.net.nz

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

The Outdoor Safety

CODE

**Before you go into the outdoors,
get familiar with New Zealand's
Outdoor Safety Code**



5 simple rules to help you stay safe:

① Plan your trip

② Tell someone

③ Be aware of the weather

④ Know your limits

⑤ Take sufficient supplies

For more information about how you can prepare for your outdoor activity, visit www.mountainsafety.org.nz

MOROCCO

CLIMBING

Words and Images by Derek Cheng

THE ROCK SLOT SWALLOWED THE CAM PERFECTLY, BUT THE ROCK ITSELF LOOKED DUBIOUS. STRUCTURALLY QUESTIONABLE. YOU KNOW DESPERATION LEVELS ARE PUSHING THE RED ZONE WHEN YOU SETTLE FOR PLACEMENTS SHROUDED IN FATALISTIC RESIGNATION.

I tugged the cam for reassurance, glancing at a flake weakness above that I was hoping would lead me through the roof, 150m off the ground in the remote Anti-Atlas range, Morocco.

We were close to surmounting the final obstacle on what was our first onsight, ground-up attempt. The moves through the roof looked doable. But protection was thin and I was metres above my last piece of protection.

Again, with more force, I pulled on the cam.

The lobes opened. Suddenly a rock chunk twice the size of my hand broke off, unleashing a wave of horror that rushed up through my chest and escaped in an awkward yelp of "WaaAArgh!"

I managed to catch the loose rock in the hand that also clung to the cam. Collecting my composure, I hurled the rock to the abyss below. A worrisome noise floated up from my climbing partner, Frazer, belaying below.

Finally, I found a good wire placement just below the roof and then reached high into the flake. High right foot smear. I pushed higher, and just before grabbing a jug at the top of the flake, I knocked it in anxious trepidation. Bomb-proof.

Pulling through, any remaining horror in my body was instantly consumed by a surge of euphoria.

Numerous times driving through the Anti-Atlas our jaws dropped to views of infinite rock. The climbing is akin to that trad-mecca downunder, Arapiles - but without the crowds, immeasurably larger, and with a dash more adventure.

Development was first recorded in 1991 but began in earnest in the past 10 years, when mainly British climbers made a biannual pilgrimage. For weeks we indulged in beautiful quartzite single- and multi-pitch lines: flakes, corners and faces that swallowed wires.

The climbing was glorious, in a barren landscape of orange rock, dotted with rural villages and terraces of almond trees. We shunned luxury accommodation and wild camped, scrounging for firewood every night and sleeping under the stars.

For years, Frazer - a Brit with limbs of unmatched gangliness - had wanted to approach an imposing wall, point at an untouched line, and climb it. We were not the strongest climbers, but did we need to be? Couldn't we just push our own modest limits? At least we would have a tale worthy of sharing around the campfire.

One afternoon, we drove towards the coast to check out some virgin rock. We inspected single-pitch cliffs of solid-looking rock, but they all fell into obscurity when The Wall came into view: maybe 300m-high in places, and more than twice as wide.

Several lines appealed. A massive detached pinnacle in the middle of the wall. A huge watchtower feature that could be breached via an enormous, gaping chimney corner.

But the two best lines were on the watchtower face: a sickle crack that may or may not link to an arete, and a line of weakness leading to roof cracks.

What's the worst that could happen? If we got stuck, we could just rappel, leaving behind some tat, maybe some gear. Right?

"You don't have the purple Metolius cam on you?"

"Yup ... sorry," was the limp reply.

Eighty metres off the ground, pitch three: technical, steep, with scant protection. I was trying rather desperately to stuff a small cam into a tiny crevasse in the face, only to realize that the size I needed had been neglected in the gear hand-over.

Four or five metres above my last piece - a micro wire - and staring at committing, balancey moves ... I'd never experienced this type of climbing.

Imagine: You can see moves to unlock the passage higher, and placements for protection - but huge question marks hover. Each hold is tapped for hollowness.

You climb up, thinking something along the lines of "geeeeeezus ...", until you see that the placement you saw from below is a dodgy piece in a flaring crack that wouldn't hold a fingertip of candy floss.

You see a crack a few metres higher that should take a cam, but you're not sure about the moves to get there, let alone the solidity of the holds. Go for it? Down-climb? Cigarette break?

By the way, you have no insurance. And you're pushing daylight hours if you want to reach the summit.

That morning had been a mix of excitement and anxiety. We reached the base of the wall, and decided that the line to the roof cracks was more likely to succumb.

We were both jumping in the deep end. I had been involved in first ascents in Borneo, but the method there was bolting as you sit on trad-protection, cleaning the route on rappel, and then climbing the first ascent.

I had assured Frazer that the Ka-Kaa Wall (named after our group's infectious bird-cry that means everything from "Where are you?" to "Off belay!" to "I wish to have sexual relations with you") would take a splash of morning sun. But it was clear as we approached that the sun would linger.

We Paper, Scissors, Rock'd for the first pitch, which looked benign from afar, but from directly beneath looked a far steeper prospect. The line follows a shallow groove before traversing to a flake system. Frazer entered the fray, and was soon blaspheming about the gear ("I wouldn't hang my laundry on this!"), and sheer boldness of the moves.

He eventually found a good wire and took a rest. Summoning the powers within, he reached for the flake, all the while visualising a slip, the sound of wires popping, and then a numb thud as his body tested the character of the ground. But he pulled through. Above, what we thought was a comfy ledge turned out to be a hanging belay next to a garden of nefarious thorn bushes.

Before I started up, I realized my chalk bag had somehow disappeared. Frazer, full of typical chilled-out grooviness with which he approaches everything - with the sole exception of ground-up trad-onsighting - merely shrugged his shoulders. "Leader takes the chalk bag."

I followed the pitch to a wire that looked like the squeezed flesh of an obese body in clothing far too tight; three-quarters of if protruded from the slot. A few meters higher, another wire crammed in with a degree of hope disproportionate to its ability to hold a whip.

When I reached the belay, I was thinking of all the amazing, established lines we could be climbing instead.

"What the fuck are we doing here, Frazer?" I said, half-jokingly.

"I've asked myself that several times already," he replied, half-seriously.





ABOVE: Australian climber Simon Pahor on pitch two of the five-pitch Crazy Mushrooms Ridge, (HVS, 17) Babouche Buttress, Anti-Atlas Mountains, Morocco.



ABOVE: Canadian climber Katelyn Merrett employs a heel-hook near the top of the first pitch of The Circle of Life/Cannon Crack (E2, 18/19), Ksar Rock, Afantinzar Valley, Anti-Atlas Mountains, Morocco

I traversed across the thorn bushes underneath a series of overhanging flakes. The line looked like it could go, and I placed tiny wires behind paper-thin rock. Uncertainty percolated. Thorny shrubbery looked like an unenviable landing, though preferable to plummeting to the deck.

Common sense eventually emerged. I removed the laughable protection and stepped left to a crack. The moves were slightly overhanging, but soon lead to amenable stemming. When the crack thinned, I stepped airily to the right, and then followed easier terrain to a massive ledge.

Exhilaration washed over me. The pitch had been blessed with great protection, cool movements and fantastic exposure.

It was 1pm when Frazer reached the ledge. Three hours and two 30m-pitches. The sun had been oppressively squeezing us, and we sought shade under a massive block. We resolved not to move until the sun had vanished; our lunch break stretched to 90 minutes.

Frazer accidentally dropped his lighter down a cavity at the back of the ledge. The thought of continuing without the sweet relief of nicotine was daunting, so he spent the break with his hand buried in the hole, reaching in vain.

When blessed shade arrived, Frazer started up tentatively, moving past a loose block the size of a small TV. But about 10m up, in his own words, his "self-belief" eluded him, and he lowered.

We swapped ends and gear, and I was soon in unfamiliar territory. While the overall rock quality was solid, twice a hold dissolved in my hand. Once I went to grab a jug, but pricked my fingertips on a euphorbia (poisonous cactus) bush, and I had to shake my hand for several minutes, waiting for the venom to weaken.

The climbing was hard to read. Protection was tiny (take small cams - especially of the purple, Metolius variety) and well-spread, and many of the holds slanted the wrong way. Delicate traverses to the right, to the left.

About 30m up, I pulled through a small overhang to a series of cracks. It was the first time I had seen more than one good gear placement in the same vicinity, so I built a four-cam hanging-belay.

When Frazer came up, it was 4.15pm. Chances of topping out were fading, and I had resigned the team to probable failure. But I wanted to push higher. When the clock ticked 6pm, we still had enough daylight to rappel.

The next pitch started in the same vein: cautious, slow, controlled moves. But protection was more frequent, and more than just the small stuff. I reached a corner flake, but it wasn't the soaring feature it had looked from the ground. The face holds to the right beckoned.

"Alright, watch me," I called below, before stepping right and stretching my hand high. Solid, positive holds. Hurrah! The easier ground above lead to a ledge and a corner that took a trio of wires.

"That was a spectacular pitch, in a spectacular position," I said to Frazer as he joined me. I was beginning to really enjoy myself.

Above me loomed the roof cracks. For the first time, it occurred to me that we might actually top out. But a few dramatic moments still awaited us. The diagonal crack that lead to the roof cracks was a dirty, unprotectable seam, oozing general unpleasantness. Instead, I followed an easy corner.

I was hoping for an easy scramble to the top, but instead a steep face to the roof confronted me. Intimidating. But then I spied the flake weakness where the roof recoils to a mild overhang. Cue the cam placed with fatalistic resignation, rock-breakage, and horror-hollering.

And then, euphoria.

Reaching the summit as the sun set triggered a quiet swell of accomplishment. It was just after 7pm, and the soft light cast a gentle spell over the orange-baked landscape.

We descended on a farmers' track until it steepened, and then slung a spike to rappel into a gully, reaching the car as darkness fell. Frazer went straight for the cigarettes.

It seemed scarcely real, driving back as if it had been just another day, babbling about music, plans, politics. But then a memory would flash to mind: the crappy wire, rock breaking, pulling the roof.

As we pulled into our almond tree grove, we could see the others had already started the fire. It had been a challenging and rewarding day, on a scale I'd never known. A new-found appreciation for the pioneers who launch into the unknown. A tale worthy of the campfire.

FACT BOX:

CAM - A camming device used in traditional rock-climbing for protection. Has four lobes that push against the inside of a crack or slot.

WIRE - A trapezoidal-shaped head of aluminium on a steel wire, used in traditional rock-climbing for protection.

GROUND-UP, ONSIGHT - A method of adventure climbing where the first ascent is attempted without knowing anything about the route, and starting from the ground (instead of rappelling/abseiling in from above and trying moves first)

FLAKE - A flat, thin piece of rock attached to the main cliff

SMEAR - Climbing technique of pushing your foot against a featureless part of the rock face

JUG - Enormous rock hold, often accompanied with a cry of 'Thank God'. TAT - Sling left behind, wrapped around something and used for rappelling/abseiling

HANGING BELAY - An anchor point where the belayer is in an uncomfortable hanging position.



Derek Cheng is a Kiwi journalist, photographer and traveller who has spent five of the past seven years exploring climbs in Asia, North and South America, Greece, Turkey and Morocco. When not on the road, he has worked as a political reporter for the New Zealand Herald. Derek will be a regular contributor to Adventure Magazine on climbing each issue.

OMAN ENVELOPED BY THE BEAUTY OF WAHIBA SANDS

Sitting as a passenger in the front of the Toyota Land Cruiser 4WD, much loved by the locals of Oman, the car bounces and sprays sand haphazardly while I hold onto the sides and chuckle. The chuckle is for remembering to take a travel sickness pill before this journey, which began 3 hours ago in Muscat, the capital city of the Sultanate of Oman.

One can't ignore the allure of unleashing their inner Indiana Jones in a destination as evocative and charming as Oman. Hence, my excursion into the wilderness of the A'Sharqiya region, better known as 'Wahiba Sands' to western travellers. En-route I marvel at the engineering feats and vision of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos who managed to connect the remote Interior via tarmac roads which swerve around rugged hills and through narrow mountain passes. I was further more impressed by the driving skills of our guide/driver once we hit the delicate off-road paths which for centuries was mainly used by roaming goats and donkeys.

A pit stop to refuel the vehicle and our stomachs was made in Nizwa, the ancient capital of Oman. Once home to artists, intellectuals and Sufi poets, it is now the most visited city after Muscat due to its prominent 12th century fort with a circular tower – a first for its time. History buffs will enjoy the defence structure and strategy used to attack such as the hot date syrup which was poured down various holes.

Arriving early on a Friday morning also produced another perk for this Indiana Jones wannabe: the weekly cattle market. Bedouins and locals rush in before the midday sun heats up to haggle and purchase a prized mountain goat, camel or cow. It's a serious affair with animals being closely inspected before sealing the deal. Omani mountain goats are quite a lucrative market, fetching up to 3000MR (\$900AUD) per goat.

Once we had purchased some khalas dates and halwa from Al-Saifi's store for later tonight at the camp, we hit the road again. Feeling elated as a sense of getting there was nearing, I looked outside the window to observe. It was fascinating to notice how the landscape was changing as we were nearing the soft orange target area: Arabian Oryx Desert Camp.

The A'Sharqiya region is notably more conservative than Muscat. Women are scarcely seen and when spotted more covered up. Burqa masks are also worn by the ladies, signifying tribal traditions and more of a Bedouin culture. Some of the best hand-woven rugs can be bought in this area as weaving is still a popular practice by men and women.

As we bump, jump and zig zag through the desert in time for our scheduled desert sunset I notice roaming camels - including two baby camels. The camels had a goal of their own too: to reach home before sunset, which is what they instinctively do. They look at us haughtily as we overtake, windows open with cameras snapping while gulping sand.

We zoom pass the more luxurious Desert Nights camp and notice a giant Arabian Oryx staring at us from a distance – not a real one, rather the one used as the mascot of our camp. The camp was our first choice due to its more authentic Arabian charm and the fact that it was run a by a local Bedouin was an added bonus.

Dumping our bags, we ascend the giant 150m high sand dune as the sunlight was shifting casting shadows in the sand as a subtle breeze stirred. We arrived just in time for one of Mother Nature's best shows: sunset in the Arabian Desert, starring no one bar nature. Rays of light poked through the parting clouds as the evening sky was transformed from shades of orange and pink to purple then blue. Silence then enveloped as we closed our eyes to treasure this moment for ever under a canopy of desert stars.

"ONE CAN'T IGNORE THE ALLURE OF UNLEASHING THEIR INNER INDIANA JONES IN A DESTINATION AS EVOCATIVE AND CHARMING AS OMAN"



Desert Nights Camp is the only deluxe camp in the area to have an alcohol license and offers pitch tent rooms that include private patios and a/c. Camp offers camel rides, quad bikes and sand boards for extracurricular activity outside of sand bashing and desert sunsets.
Visit: omanhotels.com/desertnightscamp/



Arabian Oryx Desert Camp is a mid-range camp famed for its authentic surrounds and Arabian chill out vibe in the evening: common sitting spaces indoor/outdoor, camp fire and Bedouin folklore. BYO alcohol to consume in non-public areas.
Visit: www.oryx-camp.com/index.html



Sama Al Wasil Desert Camp is the one for those looking at stripped back, rustic "home-stay" like experience with local Bedouins. Further in the desert than the other camps in Wahiba Sands it has recently been updated to include electricity and hot water.
Visit: www.desertpalmoman.com/aboutus.html

For bespoke, butler-serviced camping options in areas outside the norm visit Hud Hud Travels website:
www.hudhudtravels.com/
For flights to Muscat visit Emirates/Qantas, Etihad, Qatar Airways or Oman Air.

BACKLIT PHOTOGRAPHY

TIPS FROM OUR EXPERTS

One of the golden rules you get drummed in nearly is don't shoot into the sun. Usually you will end up with either completely overexposed image, or a dark and indefinite shadow. However, if you can control the natural backlighting, it will give you excellent and vivid results. Here are three factors that will determine your final outcome:

1. POSITION OF THE SUN: It is essential to choose where in your frame you want to place the sun – only thereafter it is possible to get the exposure right.

Basically, there are three options: The sun behind, the sun outside the frame or in the actual shot. The last option is the most difficult, since it gets considerably harder to compose the shot.

It is advantageous to have your lens in the shade. A lens hood is useful while shooting with backlighting.

Another option is to use your left hand to create a small spot of shade for the camera. This is can be quite challenging, so a natural shade or a helping hand is preferable. When you have composed your shot and found the right angle, exposure is the next step.

2. CAMERA SETTINGS: When shooting with a strong backlight you definitely want to

use the manual settings. The picture has to be significantly overexposed, otherwise the image will turn out completely dark and the background/sky correctly lit.

Therefore, select your wide aperture and experiment with the shutter speed. Try to take a few shots with auto settings just to get a sense of where to start experimenting. Mostly it varies from 1/100 to 1/640 seconds.

Second, the camera's focus. One of the hardest parts of shooting the perfect backlit portrait is control the focus. Cameras are definitely not very fond of shooting against the sun – frequently the autofocus does not work at all.

You might look in the viewfinder just to realize that you are completely blinded, and cannot see your subject. This is one of the most problematic parts of shooting with backlighting.

Give up trying to make it work with autofocus;

it is an extremely time consuming process. Either block the sun or get your autofocus right in order to shift to manual, or simply try to adjust the focus and keep a fixed distance to the model.

Third, keep your ISO as low as possible. There will be plenty of light to work with. All the shown photographs are shot with ISO 100.

3. THE EDIT: Far from all your shots will be perfectly focused with a correct exposure. The exposure can be adjusted and the flares intensified with some simple Photoshop work.

Always shoot in RAW to have the best editing possibilities.

There are a range of great Photoshop 'actions' that can help with this process

We have asked from the world's best Adventure photographers to give us some additional tips and some amazing samples:



ANDREW PEACOCK

Some 'rules' in photography are made to be broken. Shooting 'into the sun' is one of them. Doing so can often make for a more dramatic and interesting image than the same subject shot with light falling on it. This image is a case in point. Despite the lovely early morning light I just wasn't happy with the results on my LCD screen when I photographed the woman snow-shoeing with the sun behind me so I moved around and composed so that she would pass in front of the sun. 1/1000 sec, f/9.0, -1/3 EV, ISO 400, no flash

TIPS: 1. The main 'rule' for this technique is to expose correctly for the bright background and allow the near subject to be underexposed (you can take an exposure reading from the sky and then recompose the shot to include the subject). 2. Shoot in RAW, not jpeg, this will allow some latitude in post processing so that you can have a little detail in the shadows if desired. Be careful not to introduce too much noise into the shadows by cranking over that shadow slider in Lightroom! 3. Another option for metering is to bracket exposures a stop or so either side of the camera's overall scene meter reading (do not use a spot

reading for this technique), you will end up with more creative options and various degrees of shadow detail as a result.

4. Add some fill flash to open up the shadows for a near subject if you want some detail and not just a black silhouette.

5. I'm not a big fan of flare spots in my photos, but it can add a creative effect. If you are like me and want to minimize that possibility then remove any UV filter from the lens, make sure your lens surface is clean and try framing your subject to partially hide the sun as I did here.

Visit: footloosephotography.com



ABOVE: Randal captured exiting the back of a huge Pipe closeout in quite spectacular fashion. What I do when the sun sets, is I crank up the ISO to maybe 400-600 ISO and I position myself on the beach so that the colour that's left in the sky is behind the part of the wave where I might see a maneuver performed on. As things went, Randall had to get over the back of this wave right where I was looking, resulting in this spectacular image.

SEAN DAVEY

Backlite has been a strong reoccurring staple in my photography over the years. Never one to conform to a rulebook, I've always thrived on doing what the little Kodak box used to say not to do. Those who remember using film will recall the cardboard box that the film came in from Kodak would often have a rough guide on what shutter speed to use with what f stop and it would always recommend that you used the sun as your light source. Naturally I bent the rules and created my interpretations of what I saw on my own terms pretty much. I can still remember strongly identifying with the iconic black and white pictures that Max Dupain used to take of Australian beach scenes. (Google him) A lot of his work used to feature really strong pure blacks and whites and one such way that he used to achieve the harsh exposures, required for these results was that he would position his subjects so that they were silhouetted against the sun. That theme has always been a strong part of my approach. I just love really hard shadows.



ABOVE: This is just a result of mixing silhouetted objects (in this case Palm trees and surfboards against the sunset sky. Using a wide lens can be handy in pulling off these kind of images. Tech details: 17mm lens 25th sec at f 2.8 100asa Visit: seandavey.com



NEIL SILVERWOOD

A powerful back light can create a original shot in a location that would otherwise be dull to shoot. One of the advantages of using a artificial back light (flash) is it's nearly impossible to over expose the image.

Here the subject is about 10m away and the backlight is about the 10m behind. Moving the backlight towards the subject decreases the throw of light. 1/60 sec, F5, Canon 5D Mark III.

WASPcam GIDEON Action-Sports Camera



The first thing you notice when turning on the new Gideon was the very clean and bright LCD top display. There is no squinting to see what mode you are in or even if it is on or off; everything is crisp and easy to read. With a few pushes of the button you can easily change the timing on the time lapse and edit the time on the camera.

The Gideon records HD video up to 1080p60 (and also 1080p30, 960p60 and 720p120), and snaps still-images up to 16-Megapixel. A built-in WiFi connects the camera to an iPhone or Android for live viewing, recording and sharing content online with friends and fans as it's shot.

The gadget that sets the Gideon apart from its competitors is its feature-rich LVD; a wireless wrist remote which connects to the camera via Radio Frequency (RF), providing users with a LIVE viewing screen and remote control for their Gideon. The LVD connects to the Gideon from up to 5 metres away and also acts as a real watch, displaying time and date. One single watch can remotely control up to 6 cameras. Both the GIDEON (when installed in its waterproof camera casing) and its wireless wrist remote are waterproof down to a staggering 196 feet.

So the Gideon shoots 720p at 120fps, has great photo resolution, is easy to read, simple to use and has better battery life than some of its competitors, plus stores more video/photos per gig – it ticks all the boxes.

There are also a huge range of accessories and WASP has been smart enough to create an adaptor so the WASP can fit Go Pro accessories as well.

For full review including features and availability go online to www.adventuremagazine.co.nz



For more info direct people to www.waspcam.co.nz |
For stockists specifically - <http://www.allsports.co.nz/stores/brands/waspcam> – this is being added to daily!

bnz



Enter AOTEAROA'S MOST EXCITING TEAM EVENT on the beautiful Tongariro River with your colleagues, family or friends...

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TO ENTER:

ONLINE: www.raftingnewzealand.com

VISIT: Rafting New Zealand (Turangi)
Whitewater World (Taupo)

EMAIL: luke@raftingnewzealand.com



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Marmot



adventure



EVENTS CALANDER

IF YOU'D LIKE YOUR EVENT HIGHLIGHTED IN THESE PAGES CONTACT : STEVE@PACIFICMEDIA.CO.NZ

DATE	TYPE	EVENT NAME	LOCATION
01 Nov	Adv Race	Big Bang 6 hr Adventure Race	Kapiti
	Adv Race	Act, Belong, Commit	Augusta, WA
	Triathlon	Rockman	Niue
07 Nov	Run/Trek	Around the Mountain Solo	New Plymouth
08 Nov	Run/Trek	Around the Mountain Relay	New Plymouth
	Cycling	Source to Sea	Westport
	Multisport	Biathlon Enduro	Tauranga
	Raft/Run	River Wild Raftn Run Challenge	Turangi
	Kayaking	Whanganui River Challenge	Whanganui
09 Nov	Kayaking	Coast Challenge	Rodney
	Multisport	Coast Challenge	Rodney
	Triathlon	Peoples Triathlon Series	Maraetai Bch
	Orienteering	Mt Evans Rogaine	Banks Peninsula
13 Nov	Swim	Summer Series	Kohimarama Bch
15 Nov	Run/Trek	Coastal Challenge	Wellington
16 Nov	Run/Trek	Tois Challenge	Whakatane
	Run/Trek	Fun walk/relay	Whakatane
	Run/Trek	Skechers Women's 6k	Auckland
	Cycling	Bike the Bridge	Albany, Ak
19 Nov	Adv race	Ultra Trail La Transtica	Costa Rica
	Triathlon	Stroke and Stride	Mission Bay
20 Nov	Swim	Summer Series	Kohimarama Bch
22 Nov	Multisport	Multisport Festival	Awhitu Reg Park
	Run/Trek	Running Festival	Rotorua
	Swim	Ocean Swim Series	Paihia
27 Nov	Swim	Summer Series	Kohimarama Bch
29 Nov	Run/Trek	Orca Trailblazer	Waiheke Is
03 Dec	Triathlon	Stroke and Stride	Mission Bay
04 Dec	Swim	Summer Series	Kohimarama Bch
06 Dec	Run/Trek	Coastal Challenge	Paihia
	Run/Trek	The Goat	Tongariro Nat Pk
	Run/Trek	R-Line Half Marathon and 10km	Tauranga
	Adv Race	Lorne Adventure Fest	Lorne Victoria
07 Dec	Swim	Ocean Swim Series	Ak Viaduct
11 Dec	Swim	Summer Series	Kohimarama Bch
13 Dec	Run/Trek	Raglan Karioi Trail	Raglan
18 Dec	Swim	Summer Series	Kohimarama Bch
21 Dec	Triathlon	Triathlon Series	Mission Bay
15 Jan	Swim	Summer Series	Kohimarama Bch
17 Jan	Mt Bike	Rabbit Ridge	Queenstown
18 Jan	Cycling	SRAM Tour de Ranges	Clevedon



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SAMOA

The Treasured Islands of the South Pacific

EVENTS

SAMOA WARRIOR TRIATHLON

Words and Images by Mead Norton



This year was the second year that Samoa has hosted at 70.3 Ironman distance triathlon after hosting the Samoa Swim Series successfully for a few years. As Seti Afoa, the race director said, "it was the natural step given the natural window we have to monopolise multisporting events in the cold winter months in the southern hemisphere". After only two years has already become a must do race for a lot of Elite and competitive age group triathletes who are based in the Southern Hemisphere looking to get some hot weather race experience while training for some of the bigger races held in similar conditions, like the Ironman World Championships. The Samoa Warrior race is still a very much grass root race that does not have some of the extra distractions that come with racing an official Ironman, ITU, or Challenge race, it is just about getting out there and pushing yourself to your limit and enjoying the amazing scenery that Samoa has to offer.

The Samoa Warrior race features a two lap swim in

Apia harbour and a 600m run along the sidewalks of Apia to transition in the center of Apia town and then a brutal 90 km bike ride that includes 4 laps through Apia before heading out on some of the roughest roads ever to be ridden in a triathlon race through various local villages before hitting a steep 4km hill right before the turnaround point and bombing back down the hill and doubling back into Apia. Once back in Apia, the run is a four lap course that goes out along Mulinu'u Peninsula and back along Beach Road before finishing in the middle of Apia town.

This year's race featured the returning champion Graham O'Grady, Sam Betten, Ollie Whistler, Stephen Farrell, Jared Bowden, and Kerry Weeks in the men's race. Sarah Crowley, Julia Grant and Jo Carrel were the top women competing. This year also featured both a team category for the Warrior race made up of mostly local athletes and also a shorter "Beat the Heat Race" for athletes who didn't want to take on the full course, which allowed some of the locals to get a taste of their first triathlon.

Sam Betten won the men's race in a new course record of 4:20:26 just a two weeks after coming second at Ironman Philippines. Sam made his break during the first part of the bike course pushing the pace through the four laps around Apia, so that he was basically on his own, except for two police motorbikes (one in front and one behind) which came in handy as they helped to flag motorists off the road as he passed them and as an added bonus they also helped to stop the many dogs and one large pig from crossing the road in front of him. Once on the run, he was able to maintain a lead of between four and five minutes through out and concentrate on keeping his core body temperature down by taking advantage of the sponges and ice at all the aid stations. He ended up crossing the line two minutes faster than the course record and Ollie Whistler took out second place 5:22 behind him and Stephen Farrell crossed the line in third. Graham O'Grady and Kerry Weeks both had to pull out during the run due to the heat.

In the Woman's race, Sarah Crowley returned after placing third in last years event and used her knowledge of the course to power her way for the win on the run. One the bike course Sarah and Julia Grant swapped leads a couple of times and Julia was unlucky to get a flat with 20km to go that allowed Sarah to regain the lead. Julia fought back hard after her flat and Sarah only had about a minute lead coming off the bike. They continued to swap positions during the run, but Sarah was able to maintain a constant tempo during the run and was able to retake the lead on the last lap of the run and was still pushing the pace all the way to the finish since she didn't know how much Julia had left. Sarah ended up crossing the line just over the five hour mark at



5:00:54 with Julia Grant finishing second 4:03 behind Sarah with Jo Carrel finishing third.

In addition to the race itself, the welcome Parade through Apia and the welcome dinner the night before the race are both experiences that make this race particularly special and the Award dinner after the race is a great way to share war stories with your fellow athletes and compare notes about how the race went as well as eating some great local food. Also the post race treatment of full on sponges, cold water, ice packs and a fresh Nui (coconut water straight out of the shell) was as Ollie Whistler said, "was the best post race treatment I have ever had" is just one more way that Seti Afoa and his Warrior team go out of their way to ensure that all racers have a great experience during the race week.

For next year, The Samoa Warrior race will be on August 16 and will also be closer to the last of the Samoa Swim Series July 31- August 2 so competitors can come and compete in the Swim Series and stay on and compete in the Warrior Triathlon. There will also be a Warrior training camp the week before the race for racers wanting to get some extra training and heat acclimatisation. Also the Warrior team has teamed up with Tri Travel in Australia to put together some good travel deal for athletes looking to come over for the race.

To ensure that you have the best experience when you do come to Samoa remember to bring extras of everything. There are no bike shops in Samoa, so be sure to bring lots of extra tubes, spare tires and leave your racing tires at home. The roads are really rough and there are a lot of potholes, cracks in the asphalt and glass and small stones that will destroy race tires. Tim Berkel got three flats and Cam Brown got two flats during the first Warrior race and most of the pro's this year were all racing on training tires. Also be sure to bring extra supplements and electrolytes since you will probably be drinking quite a bit more than you are used to in the heat and humidity.

So if you truly want to challenge yourself and see how strong of a triathlete you really are, then be sure to sign up for next year's race. Sam Betten described the Warrior Course as being, "totally brutal and one of the most honest and hardest courses that I have ever raced on". It is more than just another triathlon, it is an experience that you will remember for the rest of your life as a challenge that pushed you to your limit in one of the most amazing destinations in the world.



MORE THAN JUST BEAUTIFUL BEACHES

Samoa has long been known for its beautiful beaches and unique traditional culture but there is a lot more to do in Samoa for those who want a little more than a suntan and cocktails by the pool (however they are pretty good too). For those who want to add some adventure spice to their holiday take your pick from 4WD off-roading, bungee jumping, white water, caving, canyoning, diving, snorkelling, horse-trekking, hunting, jet-boating, mountaineering even skydiving the list just goes on and on.

As an island you would expect sailing and charter boats to be a key activity here and you would not be disappointed. There are charters available throughout Samoa for all types of boats, budgets and sailors. This includes top-end skippered luxury cruises to fishing charters in some of the world's best fishing spots. Samoa has some of the best fishing in the world, surprisingly you can choose from freshwater fishing, inshore saltwater fishing and big game fishing.

With over thousands of miles of coastline within easy reach, it's not surprising that Samoa is becoming a prime destination for surfing with numerous breaks and now specific resorts that cater for the world's surfers.

Also for a Pacific Island Samoa has a range of varied terrain that offers trampers unique fun filled days on the hills, in the valleys, around the lakes, rivers and the remote back country. Plus there are National Park tracks and iconic great walks throughout the region. If you want to lie in the sun and relax, you can do that in Samoa if you want to fill your days with adventurous activities then the list is endless! Check out upcoming activities, event and a complete list of things to do on the Samoan tourism website www.samoa.travel

Upcoming Events

October 2014

Samoan 75.3 Triathlon

www.samoatri.com or email us at info@samoatri.com

November 2014

Samoana Jazz and Arts Festival

Friday, 7 November 2014

The inaugural Samoana Jazz & Arts Festival.

It brings together the 2 Samoa's under one festival banner - providing an exciting repertoire of event locations and visitor experiences.

May 2015

Samoa Swim Festival

Friday, 22 May 2015

Are you looking for a new event to do?

With a nice relaxing holiday to boot.

Then this is the event for you! Swim over coral reefs and spectacular fish in water temperatures between 23-25 degrees Celsius.

July 2015

Manu Samoa vs All Blacks

Wednesday, 8 July 2015

The world champion All Blacks will play a historic first-ever test match against the mighty Manu Samoa, right here in the Treasured Islands of the South Pacific. Combine your holiday with what will be a great game of rugby!



EVENTS

OCEANIA CROSS TRIATHLON & MULTISPORT FESTIVAL

28TH FEB & 1ST MARCH, 2015 | SNOWY MOUNTAINS, NSW

Australia is set to host the inaugural Oceania Cross Triathlon Championships in 2015 in one of the most spectacular and iconic event locations in the country.

Race HQ will be based at the 4.5 star Lake Crackenback Resort & Spa and the rugged terrain of the Snowy Mountains will provide the backdrop for a weekend of off road racing action.

Contenders for the Oceania Championship will tackle a 1500m Swim, 30km XC MTB and 10km Trail Run. This event is an ITU Cross Triathlon World Championships qualifier and Elite competitors will be racing for a share in the **\$40,000 Oceania prize pool!** Reigning Australian Cross Triathlon Champions Ben Allen and Erin Densham will be racing aiming to ensure that the Aussie flag will be flying high on the Oceania podium.

A MULTISPORT WEEKEND FOR ALL COMERS

The weekend includes events for all levels and ages including Sprint (500/15/6), Junior (200/6/1) and Dirt Kids (50/3/0.5) Cross Triathlons, 15km & 10km Trail Runs, a 5km Fun Run, plus free Mud Rats events for the littlest racers.

Another highlight of the weekend is the NSW Dirt Master and Dirt Mistress Championships where one male and female contender will take home the title of NSW Dirt Master or Dirt Mistress in the ultimate off road endurance challenge by completing the Oceania Championships, Sprint race and 15km Trail Run.

SNOWIES MOUNTAIN BIKE FESTIVAL: 2 DAYS – 4 STAGES

21ST & 22ND FEB, 2015 SNOWY MOUNTAINS, NSW

To get your ultimate fill of multisport action come and join us the week before when Lake Crackenback and Thredbo Resorts host the 'Snowies Mountain Bike Festival' on 21st/22nd February, a 2 day, 4 stage XC MTB race with a \$10,000 cash prize pool for Elite racers.



2015 Oceania CROSS TRIATHLON CHAMPIONSHIPS

SNOWY MOUNTAINS, NEW SOUTH WALES

February 28 - March 1, 2015
Lake Crackenback Resort & Spa
Register at www.trextriathlon.com.au

\$40,000 PRIZE POOL

SNOWY MOUNTAIN MULTISPORT FESTIVAL

Including Sprint, Junior & Dirt Kids Cross Triathlon, Trail Run, Fun Run & Kids Mud Rats



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EVENTS

TORO COASTAL CHALLENGE

Words and Images compliments of The Toro Coastal Challenge



Mud and slippery conditions underfoot helped the inaugural Tora Coastal Challenge live up to its name, but didn't dampen the spirits of over 800 walkers and runners who crossed the finish line.

Wellington's Greg Cornwall was first home in the 32km Big Kahuna in 3hr 19min 33secs and said the conditions and course, which followed part of the spectacular south Wairarapa coastline, favoured him.

"It was hard, it was a real challenge, and I absolutely loved it," said the software developer.

Cornwall was followed home by Brendan Quirke 11 minutes later while Mark Langlands, a former member of US-based Kiwi professional road cycling team PureBlack Racing who has recently turned his focus to running and off-road triathlon, was third in 3hr 35 mins 43secs.

Fiona Hayvice also relished the challenging terrain and was first woman home in 3hr 40mins 13s while second woman over the line, but first in her veteran age-group was seasoned Wellington competitor Billie Marshall. Anna Clare O'Connor was second in the open women's (3hr56min46sec) followed by local competitor Anna Shackelton (4hr).

Event manager Rachael Fletcher said the combination of challenging conditions, the dramatic landscape and extreme athletes all made for a brilliant day.

"Even though there were intermittent showers out on the coast adding to a heavier track underfoot the feedback from competitors has been just amazing," she said. "They loved the challenging course, they loved the scenery and they soaked up the terrific rural hospitality. Many also commented on how wonderful and helpful our marshalls and volunteers were."

Martinborough School teacher Caro Wills who entered the 32km team's event was beaming following the race.

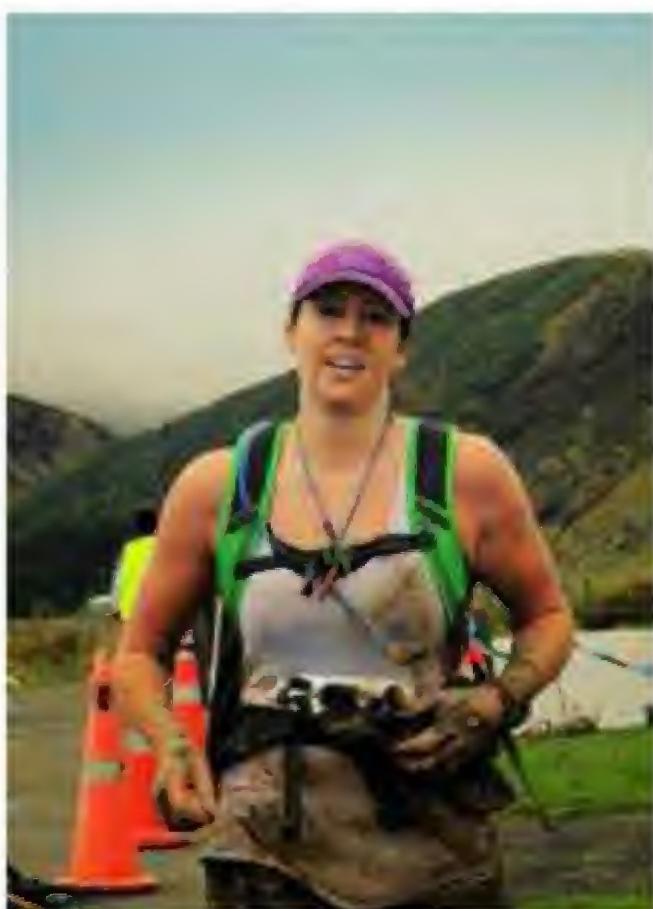
"It was challenging, but it was a great challenge. The weather kept us cool, the transitions were seamless. I loved the positive vibe. I'll be back," she said.

The Tora Coastal Challenge was set in the heart of one of New Zealand's best loved private multi-day walks, the Tora Coastal Walk. The event base, and start point was Stony Bay Lodge and participants covered the scenic route walked by hundreds of visitors to the Tora Coastal Walk every year. The event coincided with the Walk's 20th Anniversary.

For more information on The Tora Coastal Challenge visit
www.toracoastalwalk.co.nz.

"IT WAS CHALLENGING, BUT IT WAS A GREAT CHALLENGE. THE WEATHER KEPT US COOL, THE TRANSITIONS WERE SEAMLESS. I LOVED THE POSITIVE VIBE. I'LL BE BACK."





ABOUT THE TORO COASTAL WALK

- The Tora Coastal Walk is a three-day/ three night walk and was the first private walk established in the North Island and this spring/summer will celebrate 20 years in business. It has won numerous awards.
- It was established by small group of farming families who wanted to diversify their farming business and offer a unique proposition for travellers/ walkers. Walking numbers have increased steadily over the years – with thousands now having completing the track.
- It is now run by Kiri Elworthy and husband James and Chris and Jenny Bargh.
- The Tora Coastal Walk requires a reasonable level of fitness and is open from October 1st – April 30th. All information walkers need – including what to bring, transport, costs and bookings – can be found on www.toracoastalwalk.co.nz

EVENTS

PEAK TO PEAK

Words and Images compliments of R & R Peak to Peak



Uphill on Coronet Road

Hundreds of multisport athletes tackled the 21st running of the R & R Sports Peak to Peak. Talented multisport stars lined up alongside the weekend warriors to compete in this longest running winter multi-sport event in the country.

Near perfect racing conditions greeted the athletes on the start line, although some cloud on the Remarkables made for a foggy ride down through some sections of the mountain road.

The battle at the front was dominated by Dougal Allan (Wanaka) who took the lead in the kayak stage and never relinquished it, although he was chased all day by Flavio Vianna (a Brazilian living in Christchurch) and Hamish Fleming (Wanaka).

The race attracted a field of almost 400 competitors with 36 individuals and 73 teams entered.

The 44km race started at the top of the Remarkables with a shortened 2km ski stage held alongside the Alta chair, followed by a 17km mountain bike ride down the Remarkables access road, with the 4kms of tar making the bottom section slightly faster than normal.

From Frankton Beach racers paddled 7kms to Queenstown Bay on a calm lake, and then ran up the Gorge road to the next transition at the bottom of the Coronet Peak Road. The last leg of the race was the uphill bike to the Coronet Peak base building.

Allan was not with the first finishers at the end of the ski leg as this is not his specialty, but by the end of the mountain bike stage he entered the water at Frankton Beach still behind. Using his fantastic paddling skills Allan was able to open a gap on second place individual Queenstown, closely followed by team Proactive Physio.

In the run to Arthurs Point Allan managed to open up his lead on the chasing individuals, although he was passed by the Proactive Physio runner, who passed the bib to R & R Sport shop owner Mark Williams who left the transition 1min ahead of Allan.

By the 3km mark on the Coronet Road Allan has assumed the lead at the head of the field and continued to ride away from the rest of the field to finish in a time of 2 hours 5mins and 20secs.

"I had a really good race today and the conditions were near perfect. I had thought of going to see if it was possible to break the 2 hour barrier but realized during the run up the Gorge that this was not going to be possible. Still I was happy with this win and really enjoy this winter race." Allan said at the after race dinner.

Behind the tail enders were still paddling up the length of the

Frankton arm towards the Queenstown Beach transition, and the last competitor was to finish on Coronet over 2hrs and 19mins behind Allan's winning time.

In the women's field, the clear favorite was Joanna Williams (Wanaka) who returned to the winning form of 2012 and completely dominated the field winning by 23mins, in a time of 2hrs 28mins and 47 secs from Natalie Jakobs (Queenstown) 2hrs 51mins and 22secs with Sarah Cairns (Queenstown) third in 3hrs 11mins and 22 secs.

Williams (Wanaka) lead the field through the first ski transition, and followed this with a fast downhill bike through the mist, and a strong paddle into Queenstown. By this stage the gap was over 4mins from Jakobs and Williams extended this all the way to the line.

In the open teams division, the leading team out of the water ProActive Physio (Queenstown), continued their strong showing with their runner having a good run to put them first at the transition to the bike leg.

But all in all, the ProActive Physio team had a good day (2hrs 09mins and 20secs) and won comfortably from team Carbon Health & Performance (2hrs 12mins and 30 secs) with the R & R Sport team third in 2hrs 17mins and 5 secs.

The NZSki area challenge set up a couple years to encourage inter-ski area competition was won by the NZSki office team, while the Vets team trophy 'the Golden Boot' went to Avanti Plus Dunedin. They have won this division every time they have entered and now have a total stranglehold on that trophy.

A strong school teams field entered and with high finishes in boys and girls teams showed that the future of multisport is in good hands. The winners this year were the Dunstan High School team in a time of 2hours 18 minutes and 21secs. This would have placed them high in the overall in the teams division.

In the Veterans division the older multi sport athletes showed they can still match it with the younger athletes with Bob Malachlan (Wanaka) finishing 4th overall in 2hrs 17mins and 53 secs from Queenstown Chris Hankin and Shaun Portegys (Alexandra) in third place.

Mary Jowet Architects (Queenstown) won the women's team section in 2hrs 39mins and 11 secs, with the mixed team Mike Greer Wanaka winning in 2hrs 16mins and 37secs. Local Wanaka construction firm Leighs Construction won the Business House division in 2hrs 22mins and 43secs



"NEAR
PERFECT
RACING
CONDITIONS
GREETED
THE
ATHLETES
ON THE
START LINE."



Skis and boards waiting for the start



Ski racing on the Remarkables



Kayaks in Frankton Arm, Remarkables-in-background

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LET THERE BE LIGHT

WHAT DOES THE PERFECT HEADLAMP HAVE?

- A practical weight. High-powered models tend to be heavier.
- A long battery life. This can be hugely variant so it pays to check before you go – don't rely on what you read on the box.
- Numerous LEDs. Most lamps now offer a mix of higher and lower-powered lights to boost versatility and efficiency. Plus there is also now a range of new technologies as well.
- Water-resistant at least. All headlamps should be good to go in rain, but double check for submersible if near water.

DECIDE WHAT YOU NEED BEFORE YOU NEED IT

- Is it for general use? Is it for around the campfire or short hikes? If so then choose something specific.
- Adventures with risk, give more consideration. Climbing, caving or long night runs? You'll need a brighter, waterproof headlamp with a dimmable beam.
- Red LED's. Preserve night vision, set a romantic mood and some offer a "strobe" mode that can alert others of your presence – a good idea for runners and hunters.
- Look at beam distance, not just lumens. An even, far-reaching beam is more important than the sheer amount of light. Also, an overly bright light can suck through battery life and be unpleasant for those around you.
- Battery life. Headlamps with rechargeable batteries are eco-friendly and can save your pocket. But you may at least want the option to use disposable batteries in case you forget to charge up before activities or you are out for longer periods of time – there are a range of solar charge options as well ie the Eton range to recharge.

Don't rely on the package – best to get the lamp well in advance wear it – use it, wet it, and see how long the battery lasts – learn to use the functions in the dark.



PETZL TIKKA RXP

The Petzl Tikka RXP headlamp features bright 215 max lumen output and REACTIVE technology to automatically adapt light on-the-run while also helping improve battery life.

The reactive mode has a sensor which adjusts the amount of light needed depending on what you're looking at. The sensor works by detecting the amount of light that bounces back to it and strengthens or dims the headlamp accordingly. For example, if you look into the distance on a dark night, the light will brighten to help you see further because little light is bounced back. But if you then look down at a map, the headlamp will dim because a lot of light will be reflected back to the sensor and less light is needed.

A sensor analyzes ambient light and proximity of objects in your path to adjust in real-time beam shape and brightness of 2 high output LED's. Customize settings on your computer to make the Tikka RXP fit your needs for brightness and battery life. If you want, switch to constant mode for traditional headlamp function; Li-Ion battery recharges simply via standard USB.

Black/White (E95 RN)

115g including battery



SEO 7R LED LENSER

LED Lenser Headlamp/Head Torch : SEO7R is rechargeable it also has an Advanced Focus System (AFS) you can choose between a flood beam or a sharply focused long distance beam spot. Innovative Optisense Technology automatically dims the output of the light power. OPTISENSE TECHNOLOGY

Thanks to an integrated brightness sensor, light around you can be measured in real time with OPTISENSE Technology. The intensity of your headlamp automatically adjusts based on the brightness in the environment around you, tailoring your light to your activity without fiddling with buttons or switches. Pretty clever.

Each SEO model is lightweight, houses both white and red LEDs. The headbands are antiallergic, easily removable, washable and changeable.

SPECIFICATIONS

Weight: 105 g

Lumens: 220 lm | 20 lm



LUMEN IN LAYMANS TERMS

A lumen is the amount of power given off by a light source in a particular direction (candela) at a certain angle (steradian). The lumen can be thought of casually as a measure of the total amount of visible light in some defined beam or angle, or emitted from some source, such as a flashlight or lightbulb.

PHANTOM 130 HEAD TORCH KATHMANDU

130 lumens easy to use five light modes. Additional focus control regulated battery control which will assist in battery life. For example: on high beam can reach up to 158 metres and at 130 lumens battery life will last about 5.5 hours whereas with lighting up an area of 8 square meters (up to 15 lumens) battery life 52 hours

Simple compact cost effective product which is extremely comfortable. Weight 155g with batteries



LED LENSER H7R.2 RECHARGEABLE HEADLAMP

The H7R.2 is an upgraded version of the popular rechargeable H7R headlamp. It is brighter, smarter, more durable and comfortable than the previous model.

The H7R.2 incorporates some of LED Lenser's latest technical advancements like Smart Light Technology, where you can customise your headlamp by choosing between three light programmes, with five different light functions.

A major new feature of the H7R.2 is the multi-function 'Wheel Switch' at the back. This lets you seamlessly adjust the light intensity (or flashing rate if you are using the signal light function). It also offers you increased safety with a built-in optional light that has both an on and blinking function, plus provides a battery indicator that lets you know how much life your batteries have left. The H7R.2 also has a built-in USB port for easy recharging.

Other improvements include an upgrade of the tilting mechanism, so it is now even more durable. The button is larger and made of rubber. The H7.2 also features a transport lock so it can't turn on by accident – great in a pack.

Recognising the fact that everyone has a different shaped head, the H7R.2 headband is designed so it can be adjusted to fit your unique head shape perfectly. The battery case is moulded to suit the shape of the head.

The H7R.2 can also run on standard AAA batteries.



THE NEW LED LENSER H14R.2

A 3-in-1 heavy-duty LED head lamp crammed with technological wizardry for the serious or professional user.

The impressive technical specification starts with a single CREE Xtreme Power LED light chip, mounted in its own durable housing on the front of the head band. Using Advanced Focus System technology this head lamp can beam light to 260 metres that's longer than a rugby field. (rugby field is 144 metres)

The H14R.2 big, easy-to-find focusing switch and the whole head section tilts down to 90 degrees for directional lighting if required. A multiple function wheel on the battery pack triggers Smart Light Technology (SLT), a customised light management system with three pre-set light programmes that between them utilise up to 6 light options (Power, Low Power, Boost, Blink, Dim, Pulse). These offer the user exceptional flexibility and control over light functions: for example the Boost setting will take the light to 260 lumens, while Low will take the lumens down to 60, preserving battery life in the process.

The H14R.2 is fitted with its own indicator light to tell you when the batteries need changing. With economy in mind there is also a useful Transport Lock to stop the light being switched on by mistake. The lamp has been designed with an integrated attachment system which enables it to be adapted into a small free-standing spot light or attached to or through clothing to become a body or belt lamp.



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HAPPY CAMPERS



Camping not for everyone – I know a guy and his take on camping is anything but positive.

He married a delightful woman who loves to camp; she grew up with a family that loved to camp, camping was in her blood and she loves the outdoors, but you could only describe him as... "indoorsy".

He openly says he is surprised these days that anyone camps at all. "Why would want to spend your precious annual leave days sleeping on the floor?" His concept of roughing it is a hotel that does not have room service after eleven and no SKY.

His wife continually brings up the fact that camping was a tradition in her family, to which he retorts, "It was a tradition in everyone's family until we came up with a house!" He agrees that it is beautiful during the day, when it does not rain but at night it's scary which is compounded by the fact you have to sleep in a bag! He is between a rock and hard place, he does not want to camp near anyone else because the idea of noise overflow and sharing a shower with others does not appeal, however he does not want to be alone with no facilities.

His 'go to' phrase is, "there has never been a 'happy camper?'" Because when we use that term we are usually being sarcastic, "he's not a happy camper". He maintains that the happy camper is the one leaving for home and gets to shower alone.

But our unhappy camper is typical of many who have been burned by the memory of camping 10 -20 years ago. The days of over-weight, overpriced, uncomfortable camping gear that needed a trailer to carry all the poles and canvas. To top it off you also needed a degree in origami to assemble.

We are happy to say, that those days have gone. Camping, like much of the outdoor equipment has been refined, slimmed down, maximized, strengthened, made more comfortable and more durability and it's even more affordable.

Anyone looking to get into camping this summer the next few pages should be informative and encouraging. For those of you already have the bug, whether it's at the beach in a tent erected for ten or on your own miles from anywhere, this is a taste of what's new this season, enjoy – and be a Happy Camper!

CRY FREEDOM

What is Freedom Camping?

Freedom camping is a long-honoured New Zealand tradition and refers to camping in places outside of camping grounds and holiday parks. In other words, it's about pitching your tent or parking your motorhome or campervan anywhere! Of course, this does not apply to private land.

With many large and spectacular wilderness areas throughout this great country of ours, freedom camping is a very appealing option. It gives you not only the flexibility of where you go, but it will be cheaper as well.

Freedom Camping Laws:

Must Read: Freedom Camping Laws in New Zealand (google it)

Despite the popularity and appeal of freedom camping, it is not legal to park in just any public place. Unfortunately the actions of a minority of campers have resulted in increased scrutiny of freedom camping in recent years. New laws were passed by the government in 2011 in an attempt to regulate freedom camping and each local council also has specific by-laws that apply to its own region. These regulations vary amongst regions so it is important to check what they are for any area you are visiting.

In 2011 the Minister for the Environment Nick Smith announced that the government would introduce a Freedom Camping Bill into Parliament with the intention that the law will be in place before the Rugby World Cup for obvious reasons. Provisions in the proposed Bill allowed for a \$200 instant fine for those camping illegally and a fine of up to \$10,000 for those who incorrectly dump sewerage.

At first, the Freedom Camping Act was widely misinterpreted as only allowing freedom camping in areas specified as freedom camping areas. However, blanket bans on freedom camping were in fact explicitly prohibited by the Act.

To clarify the situation, in December 2012 an update to the Guidance to Local Authorities concerning the Freedom Camping Bill was issued. The Update clearly stating "freedom camping is permitted everywhere in a local authority area unless it is prohibited or restricted in accordance with a by-law".

The Guidance describes the use of Freedom Camping bylaws as the last resort to be deployed by local councils to ensure the environment is respected. The Guide identifies that the onus is on councils to educate the



public and visitors about being responsible when freedom camping, and where appropriate provide facilities such as toilets, rubbish bins and waste disposal stations in areas where Freedom Camping is creating issues.

In essence, the laws allow for freedom camping in any area where it is not specifically prohibited. Although these prohibited areas will generally be signposted, it is best to check with the local Tourist Information Center where you can and can't freedom camp. Many councils have introduced specific areas for freedom camping.

Self Containment Certification: One 'loophole' which exists in the laws surrounding freedom camping in New Zealand is that there is no distinction made between camping with or without self-contained facilities (on-board waste and water). This means that in a 'free' area where there are no facilities provided, you are still able to camp there even if you have no means of ablutions and waste disposal. While this is a good thing for responsible campers, it has unfortunately led to a lot of abuse, with people leaving rubbish and other 'pollution' in some areas, causing unsightly damage to the environment.

Unfortunately, this lack of responsible use has also led many local types of council to attempt to ban freedom camping in some areas due to the leaving of rubbish. This is despite the fact that a self-contained motorhome is very unlikely to do this. It seems a strange anomaly, but it appears to be a case of a few spoiling it for the majority.

If you hire a motorhome in New Zealand and it is equipped with a toilet, shower and waste water facilities, it will almost certainly have a

Self Containment Certificate. Smaller vans and campers will not have these facilities. If you are hiring one of these then the responsible thing to do is to be to camp only at designated sites (such as campgrounds and holiday parks) that have their own facilities.

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WHAT'S THAT SMELL?



Ever wondered what makes your tent smell after a while? Trust me, it's not just your smelly feet. Here's a breakdown of what's stinking up your tent!



POOP!

There's pretty much one way to poop indoors: In a toilet. No real room for creativity. Or at least functional creativity. Outdoors, though, the world is your canvas. Dig a Leave No Trace six-inch hole and make yourself comfortable. Here are seven different strategies, of which we can recommend five. Actually, just four.

1. THE SQUAT: The original outdoor stance. Just like it sounds. Dig a hole, put your butt close to the ground, and make the magic happen.
2. THE TRIPOD: Sometimes more comfortable than the plain old Squat, this is when you dig a hole, squat over it, and place a hand behind you for stability. It's definitely a more active position and probably safer if you have any reservations about your, um, solid waste getting on your shoes or hiking boots – the Tripod puts your bum farther south of those north-facing feet.
3. THE TREE HUG: If the roots cooperate, you can dig a hole close enough to a tree, and if the tree's not too big around you can wrap your hands or arms around the trunk for support as you squat over the hole and rock it out.
4. THE NATURAL TOILET: Sometimes you can get lucky and find a fallen log or a large, well-placed boulder to hang your butt off as you poop over the edge. This is an advanced technique, and as scouting an appropriate prop can take time, not to be attempted when you're in a hurry.
5. THE LEAN-POO: Much like the National Toilet,

WHAT'S IN YOUR SLEEPING BAG

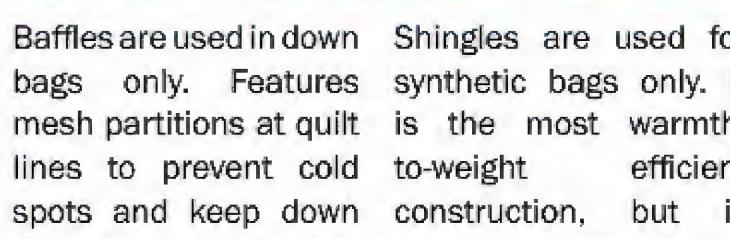
Sleeping bag construction methods vary in cost and the benefits each provide.



Sewn-through is used in lightweight or warm-weather synthetic or down bags. It is inexpensive to construct, but can have cold spots at quilt lines.



Offset Quilt is used for synthetic bags only. It has no cold spots at quilt lines and is less expensive than shingled construction.



Baffles are used in down bags only. Features mesh partitions at quilt lines to prevent cold spots and keep down from migrating through the bag. Expensive, but very warm.

Shingles are used for synthetic bags only. It is the most warmth-to-weight efficient construction, but is more expensive than offset quilt.



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The Joule is perfect for backpacking groups and alpinists. It offers consistent heat output down to -12°C thanks to a proprietary regulator technology. Its inverted fuel can and liquid feed regulator provide the performance of a liquid/multi fuel stove but with the ease of use and versatility of a canister system. Setup and reliability are improved over liquid/multi fuel stoves which require significant assembly and priming before use.

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JETBOIL

NZ'S BEST KEPT SECRET CAMPING SPOTS

Amongst its expansive coastline, hidden valleys and forested hill New Zealand's boasts some of the best camping areas in the world. We asked around and got recommendation from contributors and readers alike where are some great places to camp, some fairly well-known, many well off the beaten track. If you would like to recommend somewhere for next year or on line please let us know. Shhhh Don't tell anyone



MCKEE MEMORIAL RESERVE

Nestled on the beach at the northern end of Ruby Bay, in Tasman Bay, at the top of the South Island the McKee Memorial Scenic Reserve occupies an area of steep coastal scarp at the northern end of Ruby Bay. It lies just inland of McKee Memorial Recreation Reserve, and just south of Moutere Bluff Reserve. The reserve is approximately 1 kilometre north of Ruby Bay Township on Stafford Drive. It boasts a BBQ, Playground, Toilets, Walking, and Swimming. River and Camping

The main feature present within the reserve is a walking track that provides an interesting introduction to the forest on the lower slopes. Other facilities, such as toilets and picnic tables, are present on the adjoining McKee Memorial Recreation Reserve.

Dogs are prohibited on this reserve.



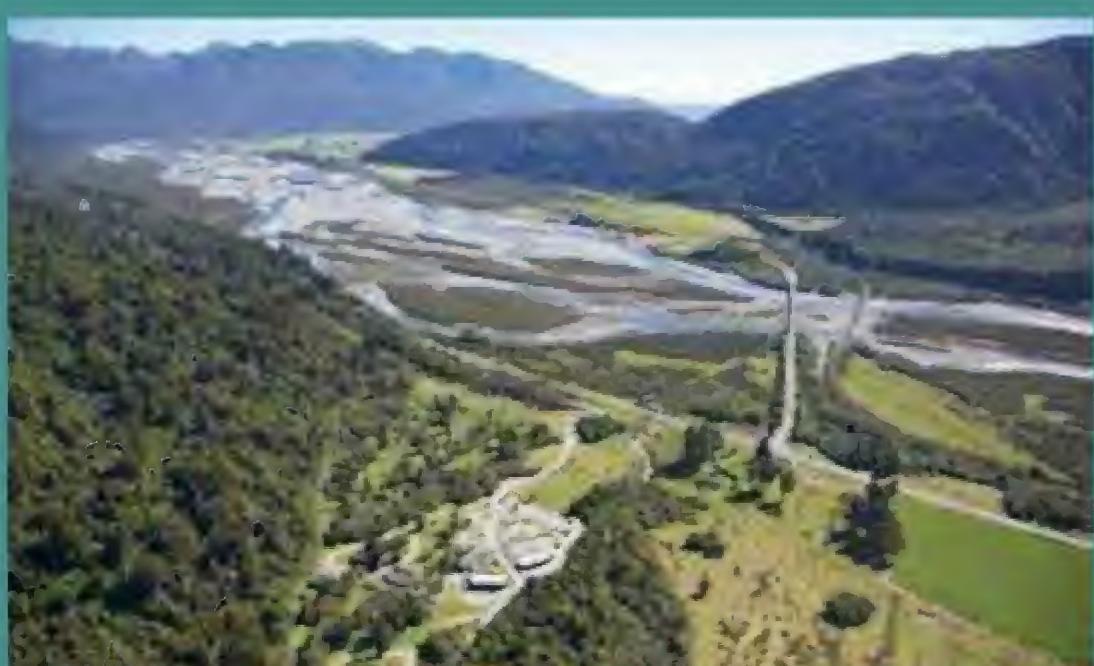
AROHA ISLAND

This is a small island connected to the mainland by a causeway, at Rangitane, 12km from Kerikeri in the Bay of Islands. The Island is a 12ha sanctuary in the Kerikeri Inlet. Owned by QEII National Trust and managed by the Aroha Island Charitable Trust.

It is rich in cultural and natural history and hosts a large cross section of rare New Zealand plants and animals, including the North Island brown kiwi. The island's biodiversity, history and natural beauty make it an inspirational place to visit.

Aroha Island offers camping on one of our two beautiful campgrounds. It's the perfect place to just relax or to use as a holiday base to explore the Bay of Islands. If you are travelling with a group and are looking for a range of accommodation, they also have our onsite accommodation: Aroha Kiwi Lodge, our bush cottages Fantail Cottage and Tui Cottage. Visiting the island is free for day trippers. Visitors can swim, walk across the beach, explore the bush or hire a kayak to trace the island's coastline. Because of the presence of kiwi & the sensitive nature of the island, a "No Pets, No Smoking" policy is in place.

If you require help or would like more information please contact the managers on Phone: 09 4075243 or email: manager@arohaisland.co.nz.



JACKSONS RETREAT CAMPERVAN HOLIDAY PARK

The innovative holiday park at Jacksons, 33 km west of Arthur's Pass Village, is ideal for camping. The only holiday park on Otira State Highway 73, Jacksons Retreat is a purpose-built complex providing 40 sites - powered, unpowered and tent - including unique all-weather covered sites for your campervan, caravan, motorhome, RV or tent.

Located on the State Highway linking Christchurch with the West Coast and Glacier region. At Jacksons retreat they boast 360° views of 100% New Zealand scenery, a stunning contrast of alpine ranges, majestic snow-capped peaks, the ever-changing waters of the Taramakau River, striking native birds and wildlife and rainforest with regal 80 ft. Rimu trees, cascading waterfalls and crystal-clear streams. Jacksons Retreat is a 15 acre park nestled among this natural beauty, with its own walking track through native bush.

Contact 03 738 0474 or info@jacksonretreat.co.nz



TAPOTUPOTU BAY CAMPSITE

Stay at New Zealand's most northern campsite and experience perfect Far North from lush forest to breaking surf and there are breath-taking views at your tent flap. You can camp with the beach at your doorstep, and awaken to the sweet sound of waves breaking on the sand. Tapotupotu is the perfect place to relax, enjoy and explore the great Far North. The upgraded coastal walkway and bridge link Tapotupotu to Kapowairua as part of the four-day Te Rerenga Wairua (Cape Reinga) walkway. However here is only 45 tent sites available, Tapotupotu campsite is deemed wilderness camping area accessible by road with minimal facilities.

No bookings - first come/first served, serviced by DOC rangers daily in peak season, self-registration during off-peak period.

Costs, Adult (18+ years): \$6 per night, Child (5 - 17 years): \$3 per night, Infant (0 - 4 years): free. This campsite is run by DoC, is just a few kilometres from Cape Reinga, accessible by road and on the Cape Reinga Walkway.



TROUNSON KAURI PARK

This campground 40km north of Dargaville, is also run by DoC and has just 20 campsites (if it's full, the Kauri Coast Top 10 Holiday Park is nearby). You get to camp beside a small but beautiful kauri stand. There are numerous walking tracks nearby.

Trounson Kauri Park is signposted off SH 12, 17 km south of the Waipoua Forest or 40 km north of Dargaville

Costs: Adult (18+ years): \$10 per night, child (5 - 17 years): \$5 per night, infant (0 - 4 years): free

No bookings – first come/first served. Self-registration during off-peak period there is also campervan access – and some powered connections. Here are only 20 sites Number of tent sites - 20 (including twelve powered sites)



URUPUKAPUKA BAY CAMPSITE

The DoC campsite on Urupukapuka Island in the Bay of Islands; Urupukapuka Bay is one of three campsites on Urupukapuka Island and has room for about 280 people or about 70 tent sites. When you make a booking, choose your campsite location from four distinct camping areas called pods. This helps to make your stay at the campground more enjoyable as campsites are distributed evenly along the beach front.

Urupukapuka Bay campsite is the eastern-most campground on Urupukapuka Island. Urupukapuka is the largest of seven islands in the eastern Bay of Islands on Northland's east coast, approx. 230 km north of Auckland.

Urupukapuka Island can only be reached by boat. There is no vehicle access to the island.

Private boats can leave from ramps in the eastern bays: Kaimarama or Te Uenga bays - 30 - 45 min from Russell. To get there take the Russell then Manawaora and Rawhiti roads.

You can catch passenger vessels from Paihia or Russell. Tourist cruise boats dock at the island's only wharf at Otehei Bay.

You can hire water taxis from Paihia and Russell and be dropped off at various bays around the island.

Water taxi and cruise boat bookings can be made through the Russell Booking and Information Centre.

If you are dropped off at Otehei Bay wharf, walk 15 min east along the marked Otehei Bay track, to the top of the hill. From there you can see the Urupukapuka Bay campground.

Costs : Adult (18+ years): \$10 per night, Child (5 - 17 years): \$5 per night, Infant (0 - 4 years): free

Bookings required +64 9 4070330 or bayofislandsbooking@doc.govt.nz



WAIRATA STATION

This amazing station is in the Waioeka Gorge near Opotiki, is a big hill-country farm which offers a range of accommodation options, including camping. The Redpath family have been living on Wairata Station for over 100 years.

Whether you're here to relax or do one of our many activities, you will be well looked after. They have hosted guests over the past 22 years and people keep returning.

Situated in the Waioeka Gorge Scenic Reserve, one of New Zealand's many beautiful nature reserves. The Waioeka Gorge is abundant in New Zealand's native flora and fauna. Sightings of Blue Ducks, Red Deer, and Tui can happen on a daily basis, as well as sightings of the many other types of native species. They have numerous farm and forest tracks for you to explore ranging from an easy flat gradient to a decent uphill trek.

The magnificent Waioeka River runs through the property and is renowned for its feisty rainbow and cunning brown trout. The farm also shares its borders with the rugged Te Urewera National Park, one of the largest untouched stretches of native forest left in the North Island.



WHAKANEWHA REGIONAL PARK AT WAIHEKE ISLAND:

Escape 'overseas' and visit this park on the western side of Waiheke Island. Whakanewha offers sheltered swimming on a long, sweeping beach with a panoramic bush clad backdrop. You can also enjoy camping and picnic sites on the foreshore.

Take the Fullers ferry from Central Auckland or take your car with the Sealink car ferry from Half Moon Bay to Waiheke Island. If you have caught the Fullers ferry, catch a shuttle bus from the ferry terminal at Matiatia to the park, or catch the Rocky Bay bus and get off at the Rocky Bay terminal. From the Rocky Bay bus stop, walk up Omiha Road to Upland Road track and into the park.

This vehicle accessible campground is a large, flat campground set back from a beautiful bay and child-friendly beach. The park offers a number of places to explore and escape to. The camping areas are sheltered by native plantings which help ensure bird watchers get tent side viewing. And to top it off the park rangers give all visitors a friendly island welcome.

Still not enough, in 2008 the campground was voted number one in New Zealand according to the New Zealand Herald, and Waiheke Island is one of the top 10 Holiday destinations in the world. A secret tip - plan a stay during the months of March, April and May (not only do you get a good chance of settled warm weather you might even get the place to yourself). Free gas BBQ available to campers for use when staying at the campground. Note: Animals (except aid dogs) are prohibited at all times.

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8

COMPACT TENTS



1



2

OZTRAIL// CROSSBREEZE 3V
RRP: \$149.95 SPECS: The best spec'd tent for quick overnight camping on a budget or parking up at your favourite festival or beach! Big front & rear doors, zipped sides and gear storage.
WWW.OZTRAIL.CO.NZ

OUTERLIMITS// VERTEX 2 MAN HIKER
RRP: \$299.95 SPECS: Dual entry, Durallium 7001 alloy poles, 68D material delivering 3000mm on the fly and a puncture resistant Duraweave floor rated to 5000mm. Space efficiency combined with comfort.
WWW.OUTERLIMITS.CO.NZ

SALEWA// MICRA II
RRP: \$449.00 SPECS: 2 person, 3 season tent. Perfect use of space: Unique two pole design, gear loft and huge rainproof entrance. Rapid set-up. Weight: 2.5 kg
WWW.BOBO.CO.NZ/BRANDS/SALEWA

THE NORTH FACE// TALUS 3
RRP: \$460.00 SPECS: Designed with a double vestibule and double door entry, this new three-person car camping or backpacking tent offers easy access to the spacious interior with included gear loft.
THENORTHFACE.CO.NZ/
OR 0800 805 806

MARMOT// LIMELIGHT 2P
RRP: \$499.00 SPECS: The Limelight 2P follows the "keep it simple" principle for quick set-up and weight-minimisation while still camping in comfort. Features include a roomy side vestibule to keep gear dry in wet weather, D-shaped door for easy entry/exit, color-coded "Easy Pitch" clips and poles, seam-taped catenary cut floor to maximize space and ventilation and seam-taped full coverage fly. Free Gear Loft and Footprint! Sleeps 2.
WWW.MARMOTNZ.CO.NZ



3



4



5

KATHMANDU// CABANA 6 TENT
RRP: \$1299.98 SPECS: The Cabana 6 Tent sleeps six and is perfect for families heading on long camping trips. Designed with Ventus technology, a controllable cooling system, it makes for the perfect solution for warmer climates.
WWW.KATHMANDU.CO.NZ OR 0800 00 1234

OZTRAIL// VILLA
RRP: \$1199.95 SPECS: Elite series construction combined with our best layout makes this tent, the ultimate NZ family camping dome tent! Massive volume, epic features and sturdy design.
WWW.OZTRAIL.CO.NZ

OZTRAIL// BUNGALOW
RRP: \$649.95 SPECS: This versatile entry level large tent provides heaps of room for everyone! With awesome height and loads of features you will be super comfy parking up for a long weekend or week!
WWW.OZTRAIL.CO.NZ

OZTRAIL// CABIN 15 X 16
RRP: \$3999.95 SPECS: Probably the cheapest bach on the block! This massive canvas tent is the ultimate in luxury, comes with \$750 sunroom and floor FREE! The best specs used in the NZ market!
WWW.OZTRAIL.CO.NZ



SLEEPING BAGS

1 KATHMANDU// BIVY XT BAG

RRP: \$299.98 SPECS: Designed to provide shelter anywhere and anytime, the lightweight Bivy XT Bag is seam-sealed and water resistant, with a durable water repellent (DWR) finish and breathable Pertex® Shield+ Technology.

WWW.KATHMANDU.CO.NZ OR 0800 00 1234

2 KATHMANDU// CENTAURUS

SLEEPSUIT SLEEPING BAG
RRP: \$249.98 SPECS: This sleeping bag can be worn in moderate climates. Features include arm access sleeves to make reading easy and the foot-box can be closed with a drawstring for added warmth when sleeping or be cinched up so it can be worn while walking around camp.

WWW.KATHMANDU.CO.NZ OR 0800 00 1234

3 THE NORTH FACE// GOLD KAZOO

RRP: \$440.00 SPECS: A 40°F / 4°C water-resistant ProDown™ bag with anti-compression pads, delivers warmth for quick forays in warmer climates.

THENORTHFACE.CO.NZ/

OR 0800 805 806

4 DOMEX// STARFLITE 550/700

RRP: \$299-\$399.00 SPECS: Versatile down bag designed specifically for Kiwis for camping and travel adventures. Semi-rectangular shape offers leg room, twin zip system allows separate side and foot temperature control. 5 year warranty. Available in 700g or 550g fill.

WWW.TIGHTLINES.CO.NZ

5 MARMOT// KIDS TRESTLES 30

RRP: \$149.95 SPECS: The Kids Trestles 30 is a reliable, all-purpose synthetic bag that insulates even in sustained damp conditions. Loaded with all of the features of our grown-up Trestles, but with a bit more fun, this bag will keep little ones comfortable and sleeping peacefully after a long day of adventures. Second side zip and stash pocket. Easy care, easy wash. Rated -1C. Available in Dark Azure and Lipstick. WWW.MARMOTNZ.CO.NZ

6 SALEWA// MICRO 850 QUATTRO

RRP: \$159.00 SPECS: Summer sleeping bag with synthetic fill. Lightweight, tough and packs very small. Washable and easy care. Weight: 1150g
WWW.BOB0.CO.NZ/BRANDS/SALEWA

7 DOMEX// SILVER FERN

RRP: \$109.00 SPECS: Lightweight synthetic bag designed for Kiwis and perfect for travel and camping. Filled with 2 layers of anti-microbial 7D Xcell fibres. Semi-rectangular shape, twin zip system, auto-locking side slider. 5 year warranty.
WWW.TIGHTLINES.CO.NZ



ACCESSORIES



1



2



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11

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1

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3

MTI / BELTPACK PFD

RRP: \$149.90 SPECS: At last, a proper beltpack PFD designed specifically for stand up paddleboarding! This really well thought out product is fully approved to US Coastguard standards, and available in three great versions. [FROM YOUR LOCAL RETAILER OR PADDLEBOARDSHOP.CO.NZ](http://WWW.PADDLEBOARDSHOP.CO.NZ)

4

TIMEX / VIBE SHOCK

RRP: \$219.00 SPECS: These new robust Timex Expedition Shock watches are 200m water resistant and feature vibrating alarm functions so wherever you are, you'll never miss an alert. WWW.GMBWATCH.CO.NZ, 0508 566 300

5

TIMEX / BASE SHOCK

RRP: \$169.00 SPECS: Combining rugged shock resistant style with optimum functionality, these timepieces are ready to handle all the wear and tear that comes with an adventurous lifestyle. WWW.GMBWATCH.CO.NZ, 0508 566 300

6

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RRP: \$49.00-\$79.00 SPECS: These sweat and water-resistant earphones lock in comfortably and never fall out, helping you to #neverstop. Ergonomically designed to avoid nerve rich areas of the ear for long-lasting comfort. Stockists Rebel Sport, Noel Leeming, JB HiFi, Dick Smith. WWW.TURBUDS.COM

7

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RRP: \$1499.00 SPECS: New for 2015, Red Paddle Co's patented RSS stiffening system gives this sleek 11'0 x 30" cruiser near-race board performance, but without the size, windage and extra volume (and pumping!) of inflatable raceboards. [FROM YOUR LOCAL RETAILER](http://WWW.REDPADDLECO.COM)

8

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RRP: \$249.95 SPECS: Delivers HD quality video in 1080p25 or 720p30, 5-Megapixel photo quality, waterproof to 30m, built-in 2" LCD touch-screen for instant viewing, 4x digital zoom and infrared and LED lighting for capturing night time action. Selected accessories included. WWW.WASPCAM.CO.NZ

9

JABRA / SPORT PULSE WIRELESS EARBUDS

RRP: \$319.00 SPECS: The Pulse features a built-in biometric in-ear heart rate monitor, Bluetooth connectivity for music and a companion app called Jabra Sport Life that can test your fitness level. Stockists Rebel Sport, Noel Leeming, JB HiFi, Dick Smith & Harvey Norman. WWW.YURBUDS.COM

10

WASPCAM / 9900 ACTION SPORTS CAMERA

RRP: \$449.95 SPECS: Features a wireless wrist remote, captures HD quality video in 1080p30, 960p30 & 720p60, 5-Megapixel photo quality, waterproof to 60m and has built-in WiFi for syncing with iOS and Android devices. Selected accessories included. WWW.WASPCAM.CO.NZ

11

FOOTWEAR

1 TEVA// WOMEN'S TEVASPHERE VERSA

RRP: \$139.90 SPECS: Waterproof and adjustable, with a spherical heel and support pods to promote a smooth, stable stride.
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1

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2

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3

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11



1

2



3



4



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ROARING DOWN A WILD RIVER IN A JET- BOAT IN AN UNTOUCHED LAND SHOULD BE ON EVERYONE'S BUCKET LIST

The south west of the South Island offers just such experiences with several world-renowned jet-boat operations opening up tracts of the Fiordland wilderness to increasing numbers of wide-eyed visitors. Experiences range from pure jet-boating to sight-seeing, including famous Lord of the Rings locations to fishing in some of the world's clearest running trout havens.

The most remote of these experiences would have to be Hump Ridge Jet which offers exhilarating trips down the Wairaurahiri River, running out of Lake Hauroko in south west Fiordland. Lake Hauroko is the deepest lake in New Zealand at 463m and is drained by the Wairaurahiri River, which falls 200 metres to sea level and is 27 kilometres of grade three white water rapids. The river is commonly described as New Zealand's longest waterfall.

Hump Ridge Jet's Paul "Roffy" Roff offers a wonderful glimpse into this untouched corner of the world. Overseas visitors are "blown away" when they experience the Wairaurahiri River experience. Roffy delights in the feedback he gets about his trips, which offer the thrills of the wild-river plus

more delicate touches such as observing a Native Orchid and Virgin Beech forest "dripping with ancient mosses".

The bush-style barbecue venison lunch goes down pretty well too. The full-day tours take visitors all the way to the mouth of the river on the rugged and beautiful south coast of New Zealand. One recent Hump Ridge Jet testimonial opined: "We are so very lucky to have such a beautiful untouched area in our backyard."

The drive into Lake Hauroko feels like a step back in time as we wind our way past homesteads and rustic-looking farm sheds. Farm animals raise a lazy eye our way before returning to the lush pasture. Pasture gives way to native forest as we approach the lakeside. Lake Hauroko has a mystical feel to it – a burial cave on Mary Island in the lake is a resting place to the remains of a woman dating from around 350 years ago.

When we arrive we run through the safety briefing then roar away from the jetty, which features in so many pictures and postcards as a symbol of splendid isolation.



LEFT: Jet Boating is just so much fun | **TOP:** Groper caught of Wairaurahiri river bar | **MIDDLE L-R:** Roff's BBQ Yummy and plenty of it. Waitutu lodge situated next to Wairaurahiri River 2 minutes from the sea. Roffy | **BOTTOM:** Happy customers been to see the Ancient Waitutu Podocarp forest.

We speed over the deep dark surface, taking in points of interest along the shoreline, then dive into the intake of the Wairaurahiri. Unique and secluded, the river flows through Virgin Beech forest more than a million years old. Along the way we speed past bush clad banks and through rock strewn rapids. This is a journey deep into the Southern Wilderness of Fiordland. It's an exhilarating experience as you bob your head up and down while the driver skilfully weaves his way around over-hanging branches and massive outcrops of rock.

When the South Coast is found at the end of the river, there is the option of trekking inland to view the mighty Percy Burn Viaduct or just sit back and take in the abundance of wildlife that surrounds.

Hump Ridge Jet itself is based in Otautau - a small Southland town - a short distance from Lake Hauroko. Roff has more than 20 years' experience jet boating and knows the region very well. He has a vast knowledge of the jetboating industry, local history and bushcraft.

He spent many of his earlier years competing in the now world-renowned motor sport of 'Jet Sprinting' gaining podium finishes at national events.

Paul welcomes tourists from at home and abroad as well as hunters and trampers. The lake is also the starting point for the 8-10 day Dusky Track, on which people can walk into Doubtful Sound.

The area on the South Coast has a fascinating pioneer history covering more than a century and a great variety of people. During the early 1900s Port Craig – around the coast to the east of the Wairaurahiri River mouth – was New Zealand's largest and most modern sawmill. Logs were bought to the mill via a tramway from the terrace forests between the Wairaurahiri River and Port Craig.

Huge viaducts were constructed to carry the tram lines over steep-sided ravines, and even today these viaducts still stand. The viaducts were made from Australian hardwood that was able to withstand the harsh South

Coast conditions. The largest of the viaducts - the Percy Burn Viaduct - stands some 36 metres above the creek bed and is 125 metres in length. Milling ceased in 1932, after 1400 hectares had been logged. Old wharf piles remain, along with old building materials and the Port Craig school house.

As we jet back up the river there's a wonderful sense of being granted access to a part of the world that not many people will have the opportunity to see. Lake Hauroko is a hidden treasure in our rich tourism crown but the likes of Hump Ridge Jet are increasingly making it accessible – and no doubt its allure will increase as people look for more off the beaten track memories.

If you would like more information or to make a booking please call 0800 270 556. Callers outside New Zealand phone +64 3 225 8174 or visit our office at 17 Main Street, Otautau 9610, New Zealand. Email: jetboat@ihug.co.nz www.river-jet.co.nz

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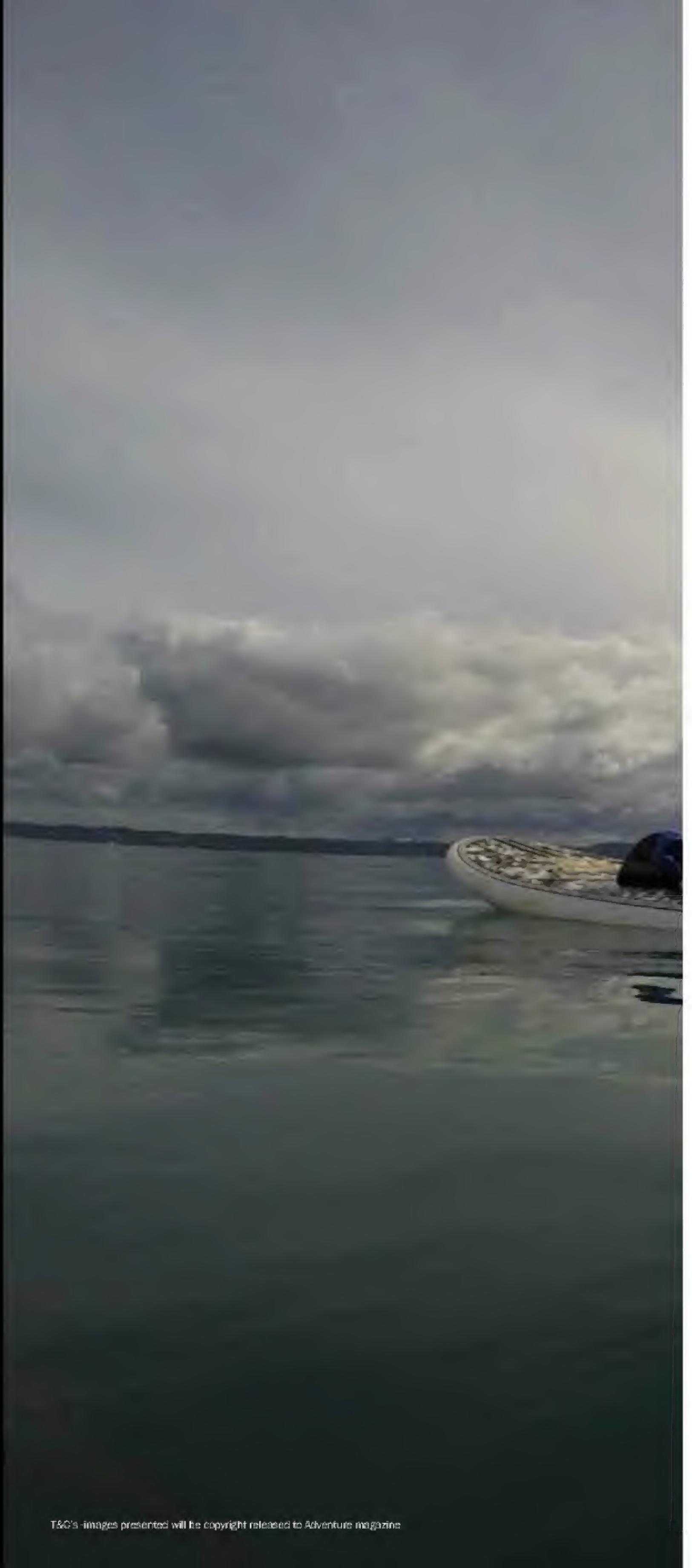
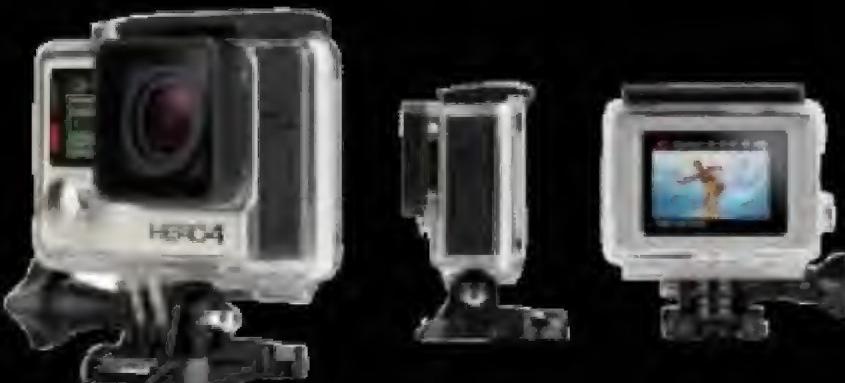
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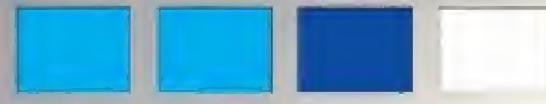
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INFLATABLE SUPDATE

Stand up paddleboarding continues to grow worldwide at an extraordinary rate. And it is becoming clear that one of the biggest areas of growth within the sport is the inflatable paddleboard sector. Northern Hemisphere markets are already experiencing parity between solid board sales and inflatable sales, and anticipate selling more inflatables than solid boards next season.

Many leading figures in the industry now see inflatables as the future of the sport, and pretty much every serious SUP brand now has a few in their range. We're also seeing the inevitable proliferation of one-season-wonder "brands" popping up, where someone orders a few boards from one of the OEM factories in China to try and cash in on the boom. These boards are usually made to a price point, and it's very easy to make a cheap inflatable. You simply have a thinner skin, and less threads inside holding the top and bottom layers together (the 'dropstitch' material found inside all inflatables is available in many different stitch-densities). Both 'savings' significantly reduce the rigidity, thus resulting in a much lower quality of ride and greatly decreased longevity. You very much get what you pay for with inflatables – indeed, the difference in quality, performance and longevity between the best and worst inflatables is actually far greater than the variation between the best and worst solid boards!

However, it's actually not the influx of cheap low-quality inflatables that has really driven the growth in inflatable SUP sales worldwide, it's the increasingly good and 'real paddleboarding' performance offered by the leading inflatable SUPs. Indeed, Red Paddle Co, who have been the world's best-selling inflatable brand since 2010, now focus entirely on this performance aspect – building products to deliver 'an authentic paddleboarding experience'. In other words, riding a Red Paddle Co board should feel entirely like being on a 'solid' board. But of course, with the added advantages of much greater robustness, portability and easier storage! Their patented RSS stiffening system has gone a long way to achieving this parity, as it increases stiffness by nearly 50% over a non-RSS board of similar thickness. Stiffness is such an important factor in iSUP performance that many brands are resorting to making their inflatables much thicker, as this also increases the rigidity. However, it also means a whole lot more pumping-up, and results in a board that sits very high in the water, creating greater windage. Not an authentic paddleboarding experience – especially if the board also has that turkish-slipper turned-up nose (the low-tech way of putting nose rocker into an inflatable paddleboard, but with the unfortunate side effect of massively increasing the windage). Whereas the Red boards remain of similar thickness to solid boards of comparable performance, and have comparable rocker profiles too, thus giving that authentic experience.

A good indicator of the performance of the best inflatables can be seen in the number of inflatable race boards now competing on the European circuits. British racer Sam Ross has won national events on his Red Paddle Co Elite 12'6, and ever more racers are getting in on the act, relishing the ease with which they can travel to events, especially overseas. Here in New Zealand, the Jetts City SUP racing series this summer will feature an inflatable class which has already attracted a lot of interest, and should be well subscribed.

While the biggest market for inflatables will remain the family (quite apart from the ease of transportation and storage, how great to have a board that the kids can roam on without any risk of 'collateral damage'!), the genuinely high performance and authentic paddleboarding experience that the best inflatable brands can offer is increasingly opening their usage up to an ever wider market. It will be very interesting to see how the inflatable/solid sales split looks in a few years time!



THE HEALTHY OPTION!

The extraordinary health and fitness benefits of SUP have been a great driver of the sport's incredible growth. It has become an essential cross-training tool alongside running, swimming and cycling for athletes from a wide variety of disciplines, thanks to its core strengthening and balance training benefits. There are also an increasing number of referrals from doctors, physiotherapists, chiropractors etc, who are delighted to be able to recommend a low-impact activity that really targets that all-important core area, as so many back problems are a direct result of (or exacerbated by) weak core strength.

However, what has also been catching the attention of the weight-conscious public are the extremely high calorie burn rates. At its most extreme, ie when paddling flat out, you can be burning up to 1000 calories/hr, (compare to running, where you'll be lucky to get 600 calories/hr). Even sedentary paddling still burns calories at the same rate as a good hike. So here's an easy outdoor sport that can be done socially, or competitively for those who like the extra adrenalin rush, feels good, and burns a bunch of calories too! What's not to like?

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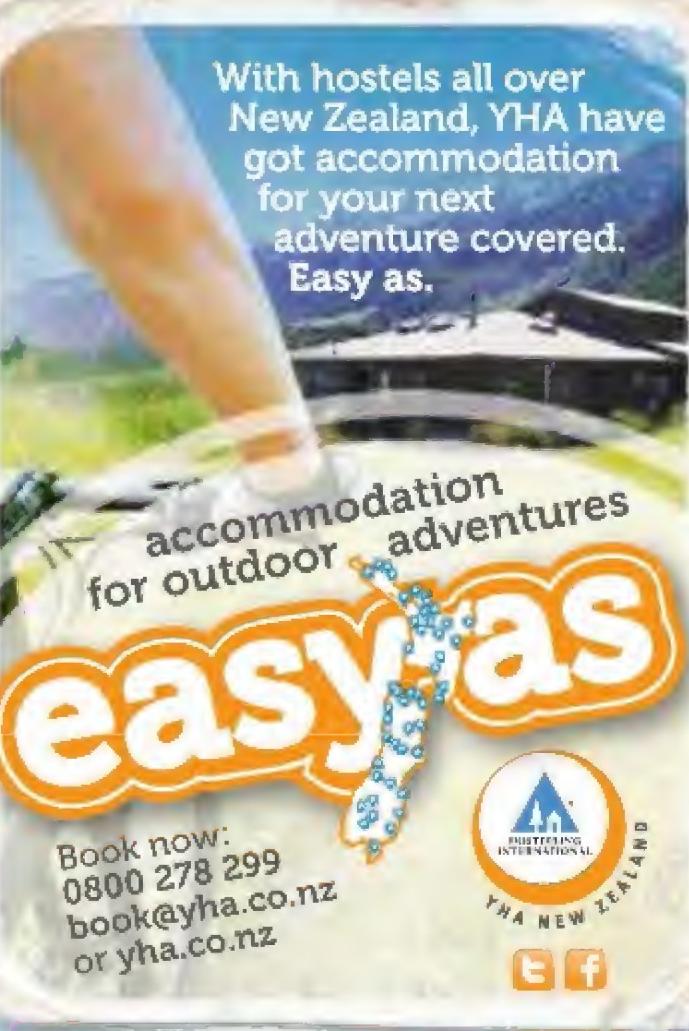
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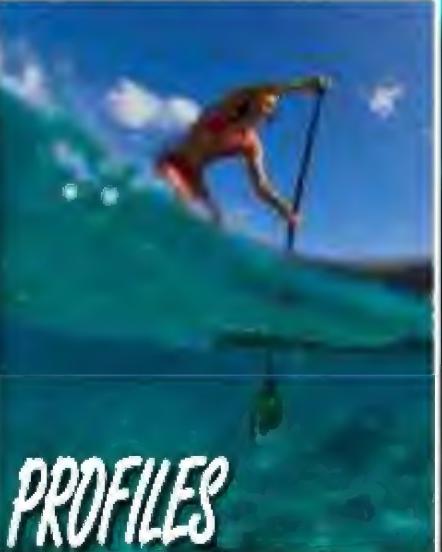
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NEXT ISSUE JUST ADD WATER

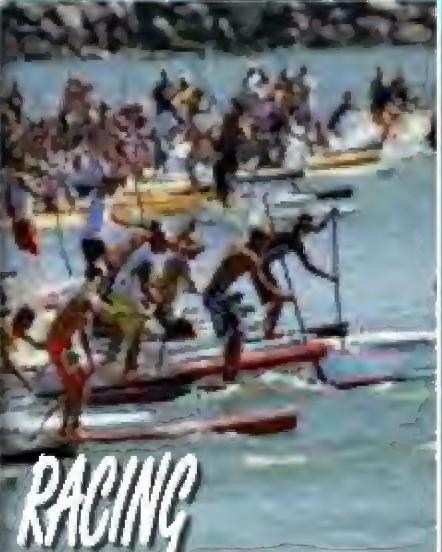
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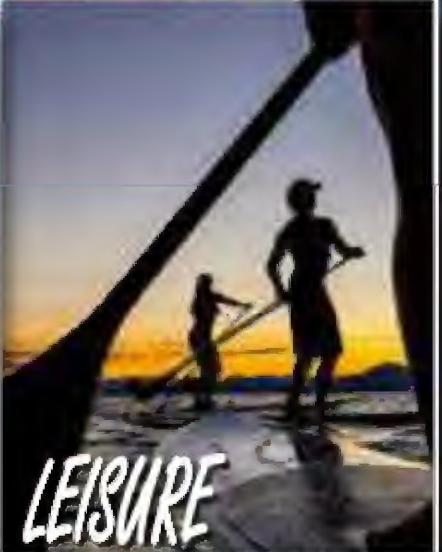
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